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# MACLEAN'S



JULY  
28th  
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FLYING IS  
HELL



**(and why it's  
only going to  
get worse)  
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An Alberta  
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free speech P.12

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KHADR'S INTERROGATION TAPE: CBS was right to ask tough questions back in 2003

## What Canada should do about Omar Khadr

**O**mar Khadr was 16 years old and recovering from multiple bullet wounds when the U.S. government loaded him onto a plane bound for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 11 years ago. That single fact has been written so many times it is so many places that it hardly registers anymore.

Which is why Khadr's lawyers were so anxious to release the fruits of their latest court victory: a 100-page, never-before-seen video of a young Omar being interrogated inside the bowels of Guantanamo. For years, Dennis Ridney and Norman Whiting have been begging fellow Canadians to care about their teenage detainee—an accused killer and former national's son of a Qaida member. They've sold us, over and over, that no 16-year-old, not even one who lived with Osama bin Laden, deserves to be locked away in a legal black hole. But as every lawyer knows, showing is always more effective than telling. "The tapes don't show a dangerous prisoner, but instead a frightened, wounded Canadian boy pleading for help from Canadian officials." What tag said it best, "It's time for this misery to stop and for Omar Khadr to come home."

The footage is intensely disturbing. Recorded in February 2003, it shows a young, bearded kid being interviewed by an anonymous spy from the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). In one clip, Khadr launches on McDonald's, says a Coke will tell the agent what he wants to hear (which, he does uncontrollably, his hands shaking

his face). At one point, Omar jerks off his orange, pants around short to expose the injuries he suffered during a firefight with American troops—the same one in which he allegedly raised a grenade that killed a U.S. army medic. When the agent leaves the room, Khadr bows his head and sobs again.

The video is almost as horrifying as another tape released earlier this year, which shows a grinning, 19-year-old Khadr assembling land mines for a future attack on coalition soldiers in Afghanistan.

Such is the double-edged saga of Canada's only "enemy combatant." On one side of the spectrum is Khadr, the terrorist, the Toronto-born Muslim whose notorious family wages war against the West—until they need first health care. Treated by Islamic militants and captured by U.S. forces in July 2002, Khadr, now 21, will stand trial for murder in October. Secret government documents also released this week say he "is now being handled by the other detainees because of what he did and because of his and his family's connections to the al-Qaida hierarchy."

Then there is Omar the victim, the so-called child soldier who had no choice but to follow his father's wishes into battle. Shot twice in the back at age 15, shipped to Guantanamo after 18 1/2 days of birdplay and locked in various degrees of isolation ever since, Khadr has spent a quarter of his life in custody. And like most inmates, he claims to have endured torture behind bars: Sleep deprivation. Shorn-shed to the floor for hours at a time. Threats of rape. In a sworn affidavit written

in 2006, Khadr claims he was once left alone in his cell for so long that he urinated on himself. When guards finally returned, they allegedly poured New-Sol on his clothes and used him as a "human mop" to clean up the mess. [Of course, the new documents also reveal that during one interrogation, Khadr urinated—twice—on a phone in his family.]

In the coming days and weeks, as more Canadians digest the Khadr tapes, Prime Minister Stephen Harper will have a tough decision to make. Should he continue to stick to the script, to remind the public that Khadr faces serious charges and assure everyone he's getting due process? Or should he demand what every other Western nation has already secured: the return of a detainee from Guantanamo Bay? It's time for Plan B.

Guilt or not—tortured or not—Khadr's case has dragged on for too long to be decided by a kangaroo court. The military commission system designed to try the detainees has been universally panned. Even the U.S. Supreme Court has come down hard on the Bush administration's plan. After six years of uncertainty, Khadr deserves the chance to face justice here. As home Canada has tough anti-terror laws, a legitimate court system, and an open-minded public that understands the basic rule of law that everyone, even a Khadr, deserves a fair trial.

That said, Canadians should be careful not to get lost in the rhetoric surrounding the release of this video. Yes, the camera is, at times, heart-wrenching. Watching a 16-year-old boy—any 16-year-old boy—say the help is not easy. But as a national's son, the new footage should have no bearing on Harper's next move. Despite what Khadr's supporters say, the CSIS agents who visited Cuba in 2001, and again in 2004, were doing exactly what we expect them to do: gather intelligence in the name of national security.

Remember the context. It was early 2001—18 months after 9/11 and just some months after Omar was apprehended. His infamous father was still on the loose, as was the rest of his family, and many of his Canadian associates were seen on the radar of anti-terror authorities. Simply put, CSIS would have been directed in its duty if a 16-year-old bin Laden, now dead, was an al-Qaida logistic. The terrorist equivalent of a radio operator. And Omar was a loyalist, a powerful treasure trove of valuable information.

Much has changed since those interviews were conducted. Guantanamo Bay has been exposed as a hellhole, and it's now obvious that Khadr is being deprived of due process. But that's not needed. Omar should be flown back to Canada to answer for his actions, not because a few tapes made him try on camera. **M**

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# 'To a guy nearing 50, there's no question about the real Batman. And he wasn't silly.'

pharmaceutical society. The phantoms would exclude religion altogether, an aspect of life that our multicultural Ontario should just want to enjoy more of the people who have to migrate here living a wrong faith tradition with those. Perhaps he's never heard of exorcism, which accompanies just the kind of powerful exorcism that the province has provided. Our clerical officials can begin to bridge the culture gap by reflecting upon one of the deepest-held displays of any culture, which answers the question, "How do you pray?" Spontaneity is a part of Ontario, embracing the character of service to the community and elevating the bar by beseeching our leaders to bow their heads and kneel rather than the power they have won is highly temporary, gloriously surpassed by a power to which all are susceptible. Power's opinion piece is that sort of papistish supposition from which we hear too much nowadays.

**Paul Newman, Comparative Religion**  
Theology, Duffin-Park Catholic School Board, Mississauga, Ont.

AN AFFECTION for a cardinal Christian devotionism. I found Andrew Pan's piece was upon an issue that comes to what power religion in the public sphere in our country. The fact is that the McGowan government has once again proven Lord Aesch's famous dictum, "Beware that in trying to please everyone, you may in fact please no one."

**Rev. Steve Barco, Barro, Ont.**

## HEART STOPPER

ARMED AND DANGEROUS: right ventricular cardiac resynchrony, which was highlighted in your story on congenital heart disease (CHD), is but one of many CHD conditions ("When the rhythm goes wrong," Health, July 7). CHD is the world's leading cause of birth defects: there are over 180,000 Canadian with CHD, and at least 13 children are born with it every day in Canada. One of the greatest successes of modern medicine is that of pediatric cardiovascular surgery. In the 1980s, only one per cent of children with CHD were expected to survive into adulthood. Now the chances of survival are 95 per cent. However, our surgery is not a cure for life. Most patients require annual monitoring and multiple hospitalizations throughout their lives. The lack of funding for clinics and the very

specialized training of paediatric cardiologists with CHD is coming long way towards far superior and an almost intolerable strain on patients and doctors.

Over the years, millions of dollars have been spent on research, treatment, and palliative care of acquired heart disease and almost no funds have been forthcoming to assist those who are working with CHD. I am encouraged that the Heart and Stroke Foundation has recently recognized the seriousness of the problem and hopefully government will follow suit. With this recognition it is hoped that the mortality rate of all patients with CHD will eventually decrease.

**John A. MacGowan, President, Canadian Congenital Heart Alliance, Oakville, Ont.**

## PEAK OIL'S PEAK HOUR

STEVIE MACHINER, writer of the recurrent theme of peak-oilism blurring speculation for the rapidly increasing price of oil ("Why oil speculators are your friends," Business, July 7). I was reminded of another recurrent theme, this involving the collective actions of market analysts and the media. However, we were then concerned with the dot-com bubble and today's rapid rise in a market, followed by commentators speaking of a "new oil mania," "growth over profits," or whatever other neologism they create as an attempt to entice the irrational. Today, we hear of "peak oil" and the "low premium" to explain a near doubling of the price of oil in a year. The only "You premium" for these speculators is in getting their money out before the inevitable crash.

**Peter Sutherland, Montreal**

## BAM! POW! ZOWIE!

I DON'T KNOW how old your sister Jane Whitman is, but to a guy who is approaching 50, there is no question about the real Jane is "Holy identity crisis, Becman," Film, July 21. Back in 1966, to copy over her lies in the Batman TV series and the comic that followed it, my younger brother and I would each grab a towel, be it around our necks, and run around the backyard fighting crime for hours, jumping off the fence and out of the tree in the yard, as horrified mice cowered in the face of the apertures combined. Then, we would get on bikes for our own private Batmobile and fly around in a neighborhood looking for more potential criminals.

into to apoptosis. What put us over the edge was the spectacular manner they we stumbled upon the historical, the Bacteriophage and the bacterium as a pathogen, but while on a drive with our grandfather. They were all on the way to visit a public library for the movie and we were allowed to sit in each vehicle. By the way, the dimensions of that age were not crazy at all.

**Felix Densley, Thornhill, Ont.**

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# A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF JOSH HAMILTON

After nine years spent fighting injuries and drug addiction, the Texas Rangers outfielder batted in his league-leading 91st run of the season on Saturday against the Chicago White Sox, smashing the All-Star break with a .302 average and 21 home runs. On Monday, he vowed the crowd at Yankee Stadium by hitting a record 15 homers—including 11 in a row—during the first round of the All-Star home run derby. On Tuesday, he started the game for the American League in center field.

## Good news

### Law and disorder

With Darfur spreading over deeper into chaos, the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor, Richard Goldstone, President Omar al-Bashir represents a clear and present danger to the peace and security of the world. The Hague court is not a legal body. Weakened on the ground, Darfur will inevitably become a target for extremists—by the way, seven UN African Union peacekeepers were killed in an attack by armed militia in the region, and already the international resolve against Sudan is meeting. Some African countries, such as Tanzania, are calling on the court to step in and the case until "primary problems" on Darfur and southern Sudan are sorted out (a novel! Message, in a fit of pique over the tribunal's acquittal of a Sudanese minister, Sudan wants the case over shut down. None of this case should deter the ICC from its mission to provide a full and fair trial of a leader who has persecuted and brutally encouraged, cannot ignore humanity.

### Just deserts

It's possible to disagree with the war in Iraq without supporting

### Settle in dead

After the Clinton Obama campaign threw a fit over the New Yorker magazine's satire over depicting him as a Muslim and his wife as a lesbian. Then they say support groups attack the cartooned film *WALL-E* for reflecting in "harsh" stereotypes by caricaturing fat and disabled Americans. However, it's dangerous ground these days. At least The New Yorker didn't depict Obama as a Muslim. Then there'll really be hell to pay.

## FACE OF THE WEEK



CAN YOU SEE ME NOW? Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper is seen in a moment of joy while visiting the Father Bertrams in Windsor, N.S.

### Send in the clowns

There's something about the circus that brings out the best in the human mind. Stephen Harper dazzled his audience of Liberal leaders and the so-called "press shift"—that is, actually news coverage—by appearing at a Stampedes event in Calgary. Harper often said this: "In a given shift." Not to be outdone, U.S. President George W. Bush, sweeping up a CBS meeting in Honolulu, where leaders had been discussing

## Bad news

### Carbon emissions targets

Carbon dioxide targets, the world's biggest polluter, then pumped in the carbon tax. When you think of carbon taxes and emission limits, study our leaders can do better than knee-jerk and schoolyard taunts.

### Strange bedfellows

Everybody has their defenders, even Zimbabwe's corrupt leader Robert Mugabe. This week's defense comes from the Globe and Mail's Rich Salzman, who argued that Canada's criticism of the Mugabe election in Zimbabwe lacked "perspective" since "the U.S. held a presidential election in 2000" and we never showed to that. It is, of course, absurd to suggest a moral equivalency between an election marred by technical glitches and one that was bitterly stolen through violence. But even Mugabe's supporters, how he looks in Canada. Salzman and the president of the Canadian Islamic Congress, Mohamed Elmaghrabi.

### Fannie in flames

There are dark days for U.S. financial firms. Investors spent much of the week betting about the two giant mortgage lenders Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which underwrite a huge portion of American housing loans. Even an explicit promise of support from the U.S. Treasury did little to calm fire fears after another major lender, IndyMac, was seized by regulators to prevent its collapse. Stocks broke out in California as panicked investors tried to pull their money out of the bank, and now many are gripping Wall Street investment bank Lehman Brothers. Don't the crowd say how the government will help stop the same financial sector? We may be about to find out. ■









bill aren't quite in kiltish this year. "There's almost a slight sense of, 'Maybe it won't be quite as ridiculous as we last year,'" George Brooker told me.

This, too, is a common sentiment. I kept running into people who were making concrete steps to share their wealth with the broader community, through philanthropy, cultural projects, or simply a willingness to work a little less frantically and smell the roses. "Yeah, you do hear that," Brooker allowed, before adding, "I've never been one of those guys, though."

But Wilson has been organizing Stampede parties for Pink Energy Capital since the mid-1990s. The first brought in \$12,000 for various charities. This year Wilson told his exclusive invitee list they wouldn't have to buy

pace of 2006, and gives telling details about why slowing down might be smart. First there's that labour shortage. "Calgary is essentially at the will of employment growth," the report says, and there is "very little room to grow without increasing costs in areas such as child care, elder care, changes to pension legislation and changes to immigration practices and processes."

The other note is a relatively new housing glut. "In the span of 18 to 24 months, Calgary has moved from a solid market... to a buyers' market where supply greatly exceeds demand," the report says. A construction boom has triggered the flow of people into the city.

Why? In almost comically prescient tones, the City of Calgary's Economic Development

imaginative citizens finds it's own leg up to raise and hold the global position that could—and should—be ours."

Are you listening, Calgary? Put down that kilt! Lose! Pick up that kilt! Put your kilt up now! IT'S TIME TO KICK SOME QUALITY OF LIFE ASS!

Remarkably, in this area many things, the heart of the New West shows signs of being up to the task. Just about everyone I talked to mentioned Lance Coffin, who was out of town while I was here but who has worked hard to get Calgary thinking of itself as a creative capital since he moved there from Los Angeles in 2005 to become president of the Alberta College of Art and Design. Projects along these lines are gathering steam. And new Moader, the executive director of the Centra Music Foundation, showed me the extraordinary collection of vintage keyboard instruments, from harpsichords to synthesizers, in the foundation's collection. In May the city gave Centra the contract to renovate the King Edward Hotel, a century-

**ONLY HERE COULD STOPPING TO SMELL THE ROSES SEEM SO URGENT**



JACK MINTZ with Ralph Klein. "There's a real sense we could solve problems here."

Stratagems isn't because the city hasn't done enough to attract "creative, innovative people." Those people "choose their location based on a city's livability, vitality and quality of life." And so far, "in many ways, we aren't keeping up."

This new emphasis on "quality of life and quality of place" is, apparently, all that can save Calgary from the decay fate depicted in the developer's imagery. "And that's largely North American city competition for business and people. Virtually indistinguishable from Denver, Houston or Minneapolis," Shaddem.

Only in Calgary would slowing down and smelling the roses be so freaking urgent. "We have to act now," the strategy document says. "Before another city with a clear vision and

old landmarks whose blues bar used to be one of Ralph Klein's favorite haunts, as an ambitious new concert space and music museum.

Just off 11th Ave. the nine-month-old Weiss Gallery, which concentrates on 19th-century art and on modern artists who work in those classic traditions, has joined a half dozen other galleries in one of the most impressive clusters of art galleries in any Canadian city. The Weiss Gallery's elegant, minimalist and sculptures might not look like part of the key to keeping the Calgary boom going, but it really is one that must not live by bread alone. Nobody has been seen or heard from Calgaryers at seeking a living. Now they have begun naming the same quest toward getting a life. ■

## SOME OF THE WORLD'S BEST WRITERS. IN ONE COLUMN.



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**PAUL WELLS**



**SCOTT FESCHUK**



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# TAKING THE HANDCUFFS OFF TO KEEP TRACK OF SEX OFFENDERS

**After an investigation by Maclean's, the feds vow to fix the registry**

**BY MICHAEL FRISCOLANTE** • Police and government officials are working on a major overhaul of Canada's sex offender registry after a *Maclean's* investigation revealed serious flaws in the four-year-old system. Both the RCMP and the provinces have submitted a long list of recommendations to Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day, urging the plan Harper's Conservatives to scrap the defective database before more rapists and pedophiles "fall through the cracks." Day's office will not discuss timelines ("When the government has something to announce, it will be made public," a spokesman says), but the *Maclean's* are confident that after years of warring their political anxieties, a fix is finally on the way. "Definitely, the media attention has shone light on the national sex offender registry," says Insp. Pierre Nolin, the officer in charge of the program. "Whether the public takes an interest in a story it can generate some action, and I think that's what it's doing."

Launched in 2004, the registry was supposed to be a high-tech crime-fighting tool, a state-of-the-art database that can pinpoint the whereabouts of all convicted sex offenders. But as *Maclean's* revealed in January, the system is a dysfunctional mess. Hundreds of offenders are missing, thousands more are never listed in the first place, and the software itself is so archaic that the computer can't record the most basic fact of all: when is an offender scheduled to check in?

In January, while the article was still on newstands, Day requested a personal briefing from Peter D. Mann, the deputy chief minister of the RCMP's Montreal not-in-trust unit. According to internal memos obtained under the Access to Information Act, he told the minister that the system is crippled by "deficiencies in the legislation" and "requires significant amendments in order to enhance its effectiveness." His presentation confirmed the brief of problems published in *Maclean's*, but it also included some stunning new revelations—including the fact that prosecutors are using the registry as a "negotiation chip during plea bargains." In other words, plead



THE PROQUESTS ARE now seriously optimistic that Stockwell Day's office will act

guilty and even though you're a convicted sex offender, you won't have to register.

The *Maclean's* have been sounding alarm bells since the registry was first unveiled. Sex offenders have used several scathing letters to MP and lawmakers, warning that Canadians would be endangered if they leave just how broken the system is. The RCMP hoped that a parliamentary review of the legislation, slated for 2006, would provide a chance to publicize their concerns, but that review has still not taken place. In fact, the House of Commons public safety committee recently voted, in a secret ballot, to study continued tobacco instead of the sex offender registry.

However, after years of political indifference, the RCMP is now cautiously optimistic that—in their words—"a highly critical article in *Maclean's* magazine" could be the nudge that forces the feds to act. "It may accelerate the review and encourage the government

to make some of the legislative amendments that have been sought by the RCMP and other law enforcement agencies," reads another memo, sent to Commissioner William Kilmer. "This article may be a one-swing, two-swing, farmed scenario for the RCMP (initial negative reaction and loss of confidence in the NSOC), followed by public pressure to strengthen the legislation."

Six months later, that prediction appears to be coming true. Not only is Day's office working on a solution separate from the parliamentary review, but he has promised to share his plan with the *Maclean's* "prior to any decisive action being taken."

Fixing the flaws will not be easy. If the RCMP's briefing notes inform anything, it's that the entire system is handicapped by one major problem: Ottawa's obsession with privacy. The former Liberal government was so worried about breaching the Charter rights



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of criminal criminals that it built a registry filled with unnecessary logistical first benefits: the offender, not the victim. In theory, the database is designed to solve sex crimes by providing police with an instant list of suspects who live near a crime scene. But in reality, these lists are incomplete, outdated, and in many cases, dead wrong. "You look at any policy from two perspectives: design and function," says David Burr, a former Ontario prosecutor who has spent his career fighting child pornography. "In this policy we designed and does it function well in terms of achieving objectives in the real world? This sex offender registry comes back 'no' on both those counts. It is a comprehensive failure."

Registry isn't even mandatory. A province must ask a judge to order a defendant onto the database, and in almost half of all eligible cases (41 per cent), these orders are never made. Sometimes the Crown forgets to ask. Sometimes a judge refuses. And sometimes, as Day was warned, the Crown uses registration as a "negotiation chip"—even though the law does not authorize such deals regardless of the reason, the result is frigate: every week, dozens of newly convicted rapists, molesters, child pornographers and other dangerous criminals are spared the hassle of having their names added to the very



REGISTRY PETER WHITMORE (right) felt through the cracks of the system.

ignore this was built to keep track of them. Those who avoided to register are just as difficult to monitor. Every offender must report to police once a year and every time

they move, but of the 15,000 names currently listed on the database, more than 1,200 are non-compliant to some way. Again, the legislation deserves much of the blame. The RCMP

does not have the legal authority to record basic information—including an offender's next reporting date—so the computer automatically updates when it comes to missing compliance. Amazingly, the Ministry has been forced to build a separate, homemade tracking system—iBodies, for example, or an Excel spreadsheet—to make sure offenders report on time. "The RCMP should not have to rely on other electronic or hard copy files or functions," says memo reads. "The database should be a one-stop shopping mechanism."

The registry is so technically flawed that if Day stated the Ministry was up-to-date compliance rates, it would take a few weeks to compile together the data.

The minister's briefing, which occurred on Jan. 17, exposed many other flaws. "The law is very clear that the [registry] can only be accessed after a sexual crime has been committed," not before. "If a teacher describes a strange man hectoring outside a school, police are not allowed to search the database for potential suspects." Prevalent

Prison officials believe "the legislation does not allow them to do this."

• Registry officials photograph offenders when they sign in, but the legislation doesn't specifically authorize magistrates. Nor does it give police the power to conduct random drug tests to make sure people are actually doing what they say they are.

• Because most compliance is a summary offense, the status of inmates is only one month. Says one memo: "Changes for compliance may not be initiated or processed by Crown before the first month period and as a result, they are not laying charges. The police's view is that if the offender remains unregistered or non-compliant, then he is continuing the offense and charges should be laid. Some Crown have refused to take this point. Some have accepted offenders who are non-compliant and there isn't anything we can do about a except update their status and when we find them."

Day's briefing ended with advice from the RCMP's deputy commissioner. "Any

## OFFENDERS ARE TOLD IF THEY PLEAD GUILTY THEY WON'T HAVE TO GO ON THE REGISTRY

For preventing a sexual crime is ignored."

Local police don't have direct access, they must contact the RCMP if they want to search the system. "Many police officers are uncomfortable with the concept of the [registry] and as a result, do not make use of it."

A registered offender must tell the RCMP if a place moves away from home for more than two weeks, but not until after he leaves. "Canadian law enforcement believe that a [registered sex offender] who can travel any where consequently for 14 days without having to report his movements is highly counter productive to enhancing public safety." Even more troubling, if an offender does happen to tell police he's going to, say, Thailand—a major for pedophiles—the Ministry are not allowed to warn those authorities. Or any for any jurisdiction, for that matter.

• The Correctional Service of Canada refuses to tell the RCMP when federal inmates are out, leaving the Ministry with no idea when hundreds of dangerous criminals are back on the street and required to register.

course of action should have been the objective not only identifying in time but not notifying clients through legislative amendments." In the briefing notes, they list six words of the sentences are repeated in bold letters.

"The sex offender registry does not need to be reviewed on an annual basis. The review is not," says Paul Gillespie, former head of the Ontario police child exploitation unit. "There is a problem, everybody recognizes it, and more months from now, I want that thing to be fixed. I don't want to talk about it again and have everybody acknowledge—again—that it's weak and needs strengthening."

Nesne wants the same thing. His staff has been working closely with the province and the Public Safety Department, and he is hoping that major changes will be announced in the coming months. "The issues that we're discussing are already out there and have been reported upon," he says. "We've made recommendations, and it's the minister's decision as to what he's going to do with them." ■

# QUIET WATERS

The North suffers high drowning rates, but can't keep pools open

BY KATE LUNDA • Perched on a peninsula that juts into the Hudson Strait, the remote town of Quaqash in northern Quebec has much to recommend it: rugged scenery, the occasional polar bear sighting—and a brand new year-round swimming pool. Since it first opened in 2001, the pool has been the pride and joy of Quaqash's 140 residents. "Ironically, I don't love to swim," says Mayor Johnny Desautels. But today the pool is empty. Quaqash's one and only waterfront facility quit for good and the pool was closed indefinitely.



THE POOL in Quaqash, Quebec, sits empty.

Back when it opened, Quaqash's pool was the only such facility in Quebec's Arctic region of Nunavut. (Quaqash, in western Nunavut, built the region's only year-round pool two years ago.) With a price tag of \$15 million—more than twice the municipality's help from a non-profit development group owned by Nunavut's Inuit—Quaqash's facility was intended to create jobs, and to give local kids a place to go. "We have very few facilities here," Desautels explains. "A hockey arena and gym, television, Internet. That's about it."

But operating a pool in such a remote setting hasn't been so easy—and with yearly winter storms costs of around \$100,000, it isn't cheap either. Drownings can often mean flying in parts, and even workers from such a remote town as Quaqash (the pool's access is broken for two years). When there's a problem with the

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Final Approval Hearings to consider approval of the U.S. and Canadian Settlements and requests by the lawyers for attorneys' fees and costs will be held at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on December 12, 2006, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice on January 25, 2007, the Quebec Superior Court on March 9, 2007, and at the Supreme Court of British Columbia on March 27, 2007. For more information on the locations and times of the Hearings, visit [www.aircargosettlement.com](http://www.aircargosettlement.com), or call the number below.

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You can get complete Settlement information, including a copy of the full Notice of Proposed Settlement and U.S. Claims Form, and register to receive updates about the administration of the Canadian Settlement, by visiting [www.aircargosettlement.com](http://www.aircargosettlement.com), calling the number below, or writing to Air Cargo Settlements, c/o The Greater City Group, Inc., P.O. Box 9165, Dublin, OH 43017-4363, USA.



### OMAR KHADIR: ALERT, HEALTHY AND WELL-FED

Osama did not appear to have been affected by these weeks as the three-year flight program, he did not appear to catch his weight (around the two-hour intervals). It seems likely that the national evidence of a well-fed and healthy "3-year-old" are keeping him going. "Notes on the Canadian delegation's interrogation of Omar Khadiri at Guantanamo Bay. "Frequent flyer" refers to regularly moving prisoners around to keep them off guard."

pool in Waupacampi, Michigan. Many-line Gagnier says she often has to fix it herself, guided over the phone by workers in Mont real. "They'll say things like, 'Turn the red handle 90 degrees,'" she explains.

Although the project was meant to create jobs, staffing Quataaq's pool has proven difficult. Of the three positions created, only two went to locals (both indigenous). "Our goal was to hire [most lifeguards]," Gagnier says. "But I don't know when that will happen." Part of the problem is this, until she says Quataaq had just one lifeguard—Mont real native Carlos Neal—and she was not certified to train other lifeguards. "They've paid people to come here and certify locals," Neal says, "but they're not wearing enough swimmer." That could be because, as the village's only lifeguard, Neal couldn't offer official swimming lessons (people trying to learn on their own could "ask for hints," Gagnier says).

Though Neal only worked for five years (in part because the other lifeguards, a police officer, there). While the work was rewarding, the 37-year-old is frank about the frustration the sometimes life. "The day I started working at that pool in the day I became a teacher, a daycare worker, a nurse, and a police officer," he says. "You've got to be prepared for just about everything." By the end of her five years in the job, the stress had taken its toll.

Water safety programs are a necessity in the North, where the drowning rate is 14 times the national average, says University of Ottawa professor Audrey Gelin, an expert in northern aquatic programs. "The water is too cold to develop swimming skills, so it's important to have pools," she explains. Unfortunately, though, the problems exist even in Quataaq—especially the struggle to train and keep local staff—are shared by pools in Inuvik and the Northwest Territories, she adds. The Inuit have "traditional knowledge of how to stay safe around water and ice," she says. "We're teaching them water safety developed by southerners for southerners, and then we're surprised it doesn't work."

Even so, both Neal and Gagnier (the Kuup-jungvik lifeguard) say they've seen their pools have a positive impact on the kids who flock there. "Sometimes when it's not too busy, we go in and play with them," says Gagnier, another Montreal native. "Once a little boy thanked us—that was really special. In Inuvik, you can't leave your lifeguard chair."

Since Neal's departure, Gagnier has placed an ad in a Montreal newspaper to find a replacement—no responses yet. Asked if the local community in Quataaq is disappointed with the pool's indefinite closure, Gagnier replies: "I haven't had any inquiries." ■

## That's not a terrorist, it's a golfer

**BY RACHEL MENDLESON** • For the last half-century, when Canadians wanted to golf in the Anishnabek Valley Country Club in Fort Falls, N.B., they had to go through the U.S. to get there. And for 20 years, Americans named it a bad joke—they didn't even mean the border crossing. But those days are over.

Even though the golf course is in Canada, the only access to it is a road that can be closed off by the U.S. border control. The road will be closed off to Canadians as soon as the U.S. border control gets the staff to do it. The reason, says U.S. deputy chief port of entry Alberto Canales, was a drug deal between a Canadian and an American involving \$600 north of Canadian dollars that took place between the fourth and sixth holes last summer. That deal, Canales stated, was the golf course was a vulnerable access point for "any terrorist, any weapon of mass destruction, anyone who was allowed into the country," says Canales.

In response, the U.S. border patrol ordered an "operation" for several days in March, in which they redirected Canadian traffic to the nearest official point of entry, resulting in a 30-hour detour. The operation was then called off, due to lack of weapons, but officers will eventually resume the blockade, says Canales (though he won't say when, for "security reasons").



**THE GOLF COURSE is in Canada, but the entrance is in the States**

"The controversy has already caused a 'substantial' decline in Canadian golfers," says Anishnabek vice-president David Garrett, and an international coalition of club officials and politicians is urging the U.S. to reconsider Maine Senator Susan Collins also recently suggested re-establishing a seasonal port of entry. In the meantime, Canales is fine: the 15,000 vehicles that cross the border each year will just have to take the detour. ■

## Police search hundreds: was it legal?

**BY CHRIS KELLEY** • How would you feel if the police stopped you for no reason and demanded to search your bag? How would you feel if that happened three times in one day? That's exactly what 38-year-old Zaida Son says happened to her in Windsor, B.C., on July 1. In fact, she was just one of hundreds of people who were subjected to "random and mandatory" searches as they headed off to Canada Day festivities on the lawn of the British Columbia legislature, according to the B.C. Civil Liberties Association. The association has since launched a complaint, at the heart of which is a largely unresolved issue: when can the police search people and when can't they?

**IT'S ACTUALLY quite legal to carry booze around in a bag**

Victim police officer Sgt. Grant Elms says the searches the police performed were legitimate, because the B.C. Liquor Control and Licensing Act allows searches if they have "reasonable and probable grounds" to believe alcohol is illegally possessed. He says that the public consumption of alcohol, in this case, appearing to be unlawful, or simply having "a backpack that looks like it's weighted down with alcohol" all qualify as reasons for a search. The police have also maintained that public drunkenness at previous years' festivals constituted reasonable grounds for searches.

But Alan Young, a law professor at Osgoode Hall in Toronto, says that's not true. "There is no general power to search people" just because there have been problems in the past, he says. Besides, carrying alcohol in a backpack isn't a crime. Criminal law professor James Stribopoulos of Osgoode Hall agrees. "Drinking alcohol in public is an entirely different matter, but the complaint suggests that the police did not wait until alcohol was actually being consumed."

Young says this may be a case where police "overreach" and hope the courts will back them up. But whatever the outcome of the civil liberties complaint process, he says it still won't clarify the law. The only way to find out for sure whether the searches were legal or not would be if someone fought a charge—or decided to sue the police. ■

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# A MENACE ON THE LOOSE IN LONDON

**How irascible Boris Johnson became the hope of British Tories**

**BY MICHAEL PETERO** • When he was a student at the University of Oxford some 25 years ago, Boris Johnson, the flamboyant, skulking, newly elected mayor of London, belonged to the Bullington Club, an exclusive dining society whose members, even today, have reputations for drinking obscene amounts of alcohol, smoking things, and then heading over large walled cubs to any mixed parties to keep them quiet.

One night during Johnson's time at Oxford, their antics were a little too public not to be noticed. Following a drunken dinner, some members threw a potful of beer through a restaurant window, causing chaos in the dining establishment and on the street outside. The police were called and several Bullington Club members were arrested. Johnson, however, made a run for it and was last seen after

night highlighting at over Oxford's much-prized gilded Magdalen bridge. A witness remarked that the slightly round and shaggy-haired Johnson moved quickly for a heavyweight.

For many Britons who have come to know Johnson in the two decades since in his various incarnations as a newspaper columnist, magazine editor, and member of Parliament, this is an image that has scarcely needed to be updated. Dubbed "Boris the Beast" by a satirist who danced and performed with Johnson in the comic strip character, Johnson is seen as rough, slippery, and yet so his many supporters at least—somehow still lovable. This is a man who once lowered his noble shoulders to tackle, and beat, a former German soccer star during a thirty match (probably a shrewd political move). Britain, actually, admitted he tried to smother a burlesque when he was asked, and claimed that voting for his Conservative Party would cause one's wife to have bigger breasts and increase one's chances of owning a BMW.

This spring, however, Johnson became



FLAMBOYANT, effusive and funny, Johnson has plenty of admirers. But many others consider him a rogue. In addition on a walk.

much more than a source of amusement when he defeated the incumbent mayor of London and Labour Party candidate, "Red" Ken Livingstone, who had been in office for eight years and had gradually worn out his welcome. Not only is Johnson now running one of the two or three most important (and in his world and the financial hub of the city, he is arguably the most powerful) Conservative politicians in Britain. The prime minister, Gordon Brown, leads the Labour Party, but while Conservative Party Leader David Cameron might be crafting flowers in the opinion polls, he's still just an MP, with an election unlikely to be held until 2009.

This means that Cameron, who belonged to the Bullington Club at the same time as Johnson, is wishing his former Oxford classmate with hope and trepidation. "London is Cameron's advance guard," James Manning, deputy editor of the *Independent* on Sunday and the co-author of a mean long reply to Cameron, told *Newsweek*. "It is very important to Cameron that there won't screw up, and there every chance that Boris will screw up. I think Cameron is terrified of Boris exploding."

Harming disaster Johnson, an early supporter of Cameron's leadership bid, as Cameron ally rather than his threat. But whatever level of intimacy the two have, many Britons see Johnson as their chance to sample a Tory government without handing over the country to a party they bowed out of office with evident relief more than 30 years ago. David Cameron has acknowledged as much. "All Conservative caucuses and sayers are part of what people should expect from the Conservative Party," he said in an interview with the *Spectator* earlier this year, before leaving himself an escape hatch. "The Boris in his own case, in his own way, and we are not going to agree on everything."

Johnson's first two months in office have been rocky. He runs a sober campaign that



## 'AMERICANS ELECTED AN IDIOT, NOW WE'VE ELECTED AN IDIOT FOR MAYOR'

ought to highlight is a kind of strategy on he was supposedly becoming, focusing on underclass and better public transport (and in the process bating and disappointing journalists assigned to cover the race). He made a series of generally well-received announcements, including banning the consumption of alcohol on London's subways and buses. But Johnson showed little grasp of the details his job entails, and in recent weeks he has been forced to accept the resignation of two senior aides, including a deputy mayor, Ray Lewis, who stepped down because of ill opinion of the mayor and usual misadventure when he was a vicar.

Labour Party activists, watching Johnson stumble, have been quick to describe him as a sign of a revolution of what would be called Britain should the Tories win the next national election. "I think it's a dark warning," Sarah Owen, a Labour Party member and former organizer, said in an interview with *Newsweek*. "It shows what would come under a David Cameron government."

On the streets and in the pubs of London, Johnson provokes a response everywhere. Peter Cameron Ford, a director in a real estate construction company, told *Newsweek* the mayor is doing a "wooden job." "He has a voice, and he has an ability to get on top of it," Cameron Ford acknowledges Johnson's rambling persona, but says this is because he "has a brain that is working on some things at the same time."

Others are not so indulgent of the mayor's obvious eccentricities. "He's a f---," says Margy Sand, a computer salesman enjoying a short-term part in the Red Lion pub near Westminster. "I'd go to see him to get a drink down before disliking. Johnson might be entertaining in a bizarre sort of way, but says,

but he's not a serious civil servant and has no expert cues in city politics." Londoners have less to laugh at Americans. The Americans elected an idiot for president, and we've elected an idiot for mayor.

It is hard to believe that Johnson is stupid. Scribbled and easily distracted, maybe, but while the occasional chance might speak by as a politician, columnist, author, or editor, doing it well as Johnson has at all four endeavors nearly requires considerable skill (he still writes a newspaper column). Charges that Johnson is push and out of touch, however, do resonate. His past membership in Oxford's Bullington Club doesn't help. And before running for mayor, Johnson was MP for Uxbridge-on-Thames, an Oxfordshire town famous for its rowing regatta. "Boats have been parachuted in," says John Whelan, a 33-year-old electrician. "He comes from a lovely, off-kilter background. How can he relate to black kids in [the London borough of] Lambeth who go to a crap school and come out with no qualifications and no options, maybe, except to join gangs?"

According to Whelan, London voters have lost perspective on what it takes to run their city. "It's style over substance," he says. "We've forgotten what it means to vote for the mayor of London. We vote for mayor like we vote for contestants on *Big Brother* [a reality reality show]. What's awful? What's funny? What's entertaining?"

Boris Johnson is all of these things. He's also ambitious, arrogant, and often underhanded. His style might be distracting, but it doesn't make a lack of substance. And if Johnson has his way, he won't be judged on style for long. He appears concerned to running the city rather than entertaining it, even if that means fewer laughs. "The red nose isn't going back on," he promised. There are those who will miss the side of Johnson, but if the governor will, probably not for long. ■

# TORTURED LOGIC

## What happens when a Justice Department lawyer defines torture

BY NURA EL SAVAGE • Imagine for a moment that you are an attorney working for the CIA or the U.S. military. You are faced with a captured suspect in the war on

terror. But what if the lawyers were wrong? These reasons have become the subject of intense debate within the U.S. government and in the legal community, and are raising the question of whether government lawyers can be held personally accountable for the advice they give in wartime.

The 2002 memo for the CIA was previously written by John Yoo, a graduate of Yale

ALAN GARRA and John Yoo (below). How much pain is acceptable, and when?



## THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD CALLED THE MEMO ITSELF A 'WAR CRIME'

You hesitate. You know that U.S. law signed treaties like the Geneva Conventions and the UN Convention Against Torture, and that Congress has passed laws against using torture or violating the Geneva Conventions. You wonder if obeying the order would make you a criminal. But your superiors assure you it won't, that you've been cleared by the highest-ranking lawyers in the U.S. government.

Your superiors even have it in writing. A memo written for the CIA in August 2002 by Justice Department lawyers says that interrogation techniques that inflict pain do not amount to illegal torture as long as the pain does not rise to the level that would ordinarily be associated with a sufficiently serious physical condition such as death, organ failure, or serious impairment of bodily functions. And even if they did reach those levels, it added, the President has the constitutional power as commander-in-chief to authorize interrogation to bypass such torture laws and treaties. In March 2003, the Justice Department gave the U.S. military a similar memo. U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey has said that any American official who followed the memo would not face criminal pen-

alty. John Yoo, who clerked for a U.S. Supreme Court justice, Clarence Thomas, and is now senior law professor at the University of California at Berkeley. His legal reasoning has since been denounced by numerous experts. Jack Goldsmith, now a professor at Harvard Law School, in the fall of 2001 took over the Justice Department office where Yoo had worked, and revoked the memo. In a later memoir, he called the memo's reasoning an "egregious error" and said, "I strongly could not defend it." The dean of the Yale Law School, Harold Koh, testified that Yoo's memo was "perhaps the most clearly erroneous legal opinion I have ever read."

Yoo's role highlighted a civil lawsuit against Yoo by a former detainee, Jose Padilla, an American citizen who had been held in military custody where he says he suffered physical and psychological abuse. The lawyer says that Yoo is an accomplice because his legal opinions gave the "green light" to Padilla's alleged torture. Yoo's lawyer has said the merit of Yoo's memo is better left to scholarly disputes.

Meanwhile, a group of lawyers called the National Lawyers Guild has argued that,

"John Yoo's complicity in establishing the policy that led to the torture of persons constitutes war crimes under the U.S. War Crimes Act." In April, the guild called on Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to be held liable, and as well as a war criminal.

After unlikely scenarios. Citing academic freedom, the dean of Berkeley's law school, Christopher Hill Jr., said, that a tenured professor would have to be found guilty of a crime before he could be fired. A war crimes trial on American soil is not going to happen. In October 2006, Congress passed a law that essentially immunized U.S. officials involved in harsh interrogations after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

On January 26, the U.S. House Judiciary Committee held a hearing at which Yoo testified about his memo. Rep. Melvin Watt, a Democrat from North Carolina, expressed frustration that he could not come up with a form of sanction beyond a long-drawn-out attempt to strip Yoo of his license to practice law. Meanwhile, the Justice Department's office of professional responsibility has been reviewing an ethics investigation into the memo—although "too no



longer works there." Their efforts include contacting corporations, including Yahoo, to distinguish a lawyer who unethically gave advice he knew to be wrong from a lawyer who is sincere but misguided or incompetent.

Yoo himself has called the lawsuit a "travesty" and argued in the Wall Street Journal that establishing personal liability will "distort the thinking of federal officials, who should be focusing on the costs and benefits of their decisions as the nation as a whole, not to their own pockets." And as for those worried immigrants—they have been busy being loyal citizens, and helping the president to Uncle Sam. ■



PALESTINAIANS hoping to travel to Jerusalem are blocked at an Israeli army checkpoint.

# LET MY PEOPLE FLOW

## Keeping watch over the 607 checkpoints in the occupied territories

BY STEVE HARRISON • "Holla! Hey! We come!"

For a guy with his problems, the young Palestinian seems awfully cheerful. In this small area sandwiched between Jerusalem and the West Bank and partly controlled by Israeli and Palestinians, he has stepped his battered white van a short distance from the West Bank checkpoint. He slides open the panel door to drop off a Palestinian woman and her child. Spinning a foreign face, he waves vigorously and shouts greetings.

Standing nearby, Rita Harrison explains the young man's predicament. He is far from content and purges that here, the sign "He can't go through the checkpoint"—which effectively divides the southern and northern parts of the West Bank—"because he has Israeli fingerprints, so as Palestinian Authority won't let him through. He can't go into Jerusalem because he's a young Palestinian man and they can't get permits." It's a little confusing. "If you own a house, it's a little confusing." "You own a house?"

Harrison has come to West Bank today to observe for Maclean's Watch. Since 2003, it's an organization of concerned Israeli women who conduct daily runs to monitor the flow of people and vehicles through West Bank checkpoints. According to the latest statistics from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, there are 607 Israeli checkpoints and barriers in the occupied territories, ranging from huge permanent structures to rubble blocking roads. Maclean's Watch volunteers run up to 40 checkpoints a day. The activities have been controversial—supposedly disrupting Israeli public reaction as "not very favorable."

Joining Harrison is fellow volunteer John Wain, piloting a 1994 Toyota covered in stickers: "FLTRN! Islamism," "We read out." "We're not a watch." "We read out."

A PACHISH WATCH activist shows her pass.



## FRIGHTENED SOLDIERS HARASS PALESTINIANS, SAYS ONE ACTIVIST, BUT BOMBINGS ARE DOWN

name is Hamas." "We don't say there should be no checkpoints," Harrison says. "But we go on examples of harassment by frightened or bored soldiers to happen. We know if we're there, we can diffuse and repeat. I think we've made a difference. We know the military reads our reports."

Harrison and crew set off for the afternoon run at 2 p.m., getting past the official government checkpoints along the security wall that snakes through the West Bank, dividing

Israel from the Palestinian. The barriers cross through the Palestinian town of Al-Ezariya, just a stone's throw from the Mount of Olives and Jerusalem. Hamas broadcasts the daily protest, now known as *al-jaww* in an Israeli-controlled part of the West Bank, and pulls into the small mosque of Al-Ezariya that is closed up on the Israeli side of the security wall. A sign warns non-residents not to enter, but Wain pilots the Toyota in. This particular protest is far from peaceful. On a dusty, dilapidated street, a Palestinian grocery store offers a suggestive array, well-stocked with fish, chicken, mutton, and even lamb hams from Jericho. "These people couldn't survive if we didn't give them business," Wain says.

Maclean's Watch (members in Hebrew for checkpoints) represent the act of cross-border defiance that opponents point to as evidence of a hopeful future for Israelis and Palestinians. Yet the view from Hamas's duty would still be as dull as looking for the red sun. "We were pulled at last," Harrison confesses. "We believed every story we were told (by the Palestinians). They would tell us, 'We're not a watch, we're not a watch, even though we could see their stories' here 24 hours a day. Or we would hear three different stories in two minutes. Forget it!"

Harrison is particularly discouraged by what she sees as the Palestinian tendency to undercut their own interests. "It's still tribal culture. Clan is what counts. We'll see an ambulance come racing up to a checkpoint and none of the Palestinians in line will get out of the way." And for someone who has spent her free time preventing the abuse of checkpoints, Harrison is surprisingly hard on about the effects of the security wall. "Barriers have been reducing," she says. "Car thefts have been reduced. Psychologically the wall provides a sense of security."

The Toyota roams on a dusty hilltop where barbed wire has crisscrossed the countryside for decades, solidly marking a line of traffic progressing through the West Bank security zone. Things seem to be moving smoothly. Labeled as a woman with Israeli work permits, not just a part of the way to the checkpoint and their homes. Whistles chirp forward. Nothing wrong, Harrison and Wain turn back to the Toyota for the trip back.

The separation between east and west is a concrete wall. "Young people don't know each other," Harrison says. "Young Arabs think all Israeli soldiers with guns, and young Israelis think all Palestinians are terrorists, and they've never met each other." Harrison, who came to Israel 40 years ago from New York, is clearly not allowing herself the luxury of optimism. "You just have to keep working," she says. "We don't have to leave the secret situation to our children." ■





# WHY AIR TRAVEL IS HELL

**Delays, cancellations, miserable service, soaring prices... and it's only getting worse. The golden age of travel is over.** BY JASON KIRBY

Last week, US Airways announced it was replacing the entertainment options on its oldest planes flying domestic routes. The move would halve the number by 100 (to 10) and reduce fuel costs by \$10 million a year, and if passengers were dissatisfied by the loss of another basic airline perk, well, they could always just stare out the window. The real surprise was that it didn't happen sooner. With fuel prices on the rise, nothing is sacred as carriers hunt for ways to save.

An official at one Indian airline recently warned that the industry's airlines will soon have to run dry their aircraft now carry less water on every flight. In everything several European airlines are also considering. In China, they've gone even further. For some time now, according to reports, at least one airline has asked passengers to avoid using toilet facilities because a single flush at 30,000 feet consumes enough fuel to power a car for 10 km. No-flight CEO in North America have already done the math on this one, and are just trying to come up with a delicate way to ask passengers to hold it until they land.

In the 1980s, a popular airline slogan invited people to "smile if the friendly skies" Not these days. With airlines producing airfares in the U.S. alone will lose \$10 billion this year, and many layoffs reaching into the

cores of thousands, the skies have gone from friendly to desperate. Since January, two dozen airlines worldwide have ceased out of existence, and adding Home's Alpha Airlines and Delta Airlines, which suffered flight from Vancouver to Hong Kong for 21 days. Most experts suspect some of the world's biggest airlines will soon follow. This week, Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic Airways, warned there will be "spectacular casualties" in the industry over the coming year.

And so cost-cutting in the order of the day. Routes have been dropped, service sliced to the bone, and passengers have found themselves out of and denied on everything from blankets and meals to checking in luggage and selecting a seat. Those passengers who could cough up for better have been prepared to pay for a "luxury flight" to several airlines have started charging less to different points, meaning that, in those points have it's already been cancelled as persons shows features in their contracts. At the same time, delays and cancellations in both Canada and the U.S. are on the rise as a result of pilot shortages, traffic congestion and financial troubles. Delays at Canada's largest airports are up 30 per cent over the last two years, while at some U.S. airports nearly half of all flights are on time. And good-bye to



**LONG LINES** and abhorred service have become a fact of life for North American travelers, and experts expect more to come

the poor traveler who needs help. With layoffs looming, customer service agents are on the endangered species list.

Is it any wonder then that there is such a steady flow of horror stories from the trenches of the global airline industry? In late June, passengers on a Chinese flight that had sat on the tarmac for three hours, only to be cancelled, refused to get off and instead camped out on the airplane overnight. Last week, passengers waiting for an American Airlines flight from Miami to New York were left standing around for an hour and a half for their flight crew to arrive. When the employees finally showed up they'd been stuck in customs a few passengers booed, booed and booed themselves. Two flight attendants refused to work and the flight was cancelled, forcing passengers to wait another day before reaching LaGuardia. To top it off, the bags were sent to John F. Kennedy International. Canadians have been particularly vexed about Air Canada's extra fees and customer service levels. When the airline launched its "Oh My Way" program in April, it was pas-

senger who pay after a \$25 to \$35 get extra service in the event of a weather related cancellation, critics argued it was just another way for the airline to hold its customers for ransom. Bags and forums are littered with complaints. One saw even with "Air Canada named my vacation" T-shirts to disgruntled travelers. And one thorough most expatriate Canadians are far better served than Americans when it comes to air travel, it doesn't really matter. Whether in Montreal or Miami, New York or Beijing, passengers are feeling the brunt of cutbacks everywhere.

An economic slowdown, particularly in the U.S., combined with soaring fuel costs, threatens to separate airlines in both ends. The question is whether this is a temporary state of affairs, or if something fundamental has changed. We've grown accustomed to happening on a plane to hit Vegas for the weekend, and thank nothing of traversing while en route to visit family and friends. Now, as the airlines use flights and rack up prices to stay in the air, it's starting to look like all of

that could be coming to an end. Orson Welles once said there are only two emotions that one experiences when flying: boredom and terror. If he were alive today, he'd have to add loathing to the list. Flying has become a miserable experience. And it's going to get a lot worse before it gets better.

When terrorism struck the World Trade Center using passenger planes as missiles, it sent the airline industry into a tailspin from which many worried it might never recover. But after some painful adjustments, air travel roared back to life. Now discount carriers launched, fares continued to fall, and air travel was more popular than ever. Still, some, though, analysts were fretting about the possibility of oil reaching \$100 a barrel, then \$80, then \$150. Now, some consumers believe it's just a matter of time before the price of oil hits \$200 a barrel. The result is a struggle, and in the eyes of many analysts, unsustainable business environment. The typical airline ticket is 50

per cent cheaper than it was 12 years ago, say experts, yet the price of jet fuel has jumped more than fivefold. Today, 45 per cent of all airline revenue goes to filling up the gas tank, says Vaughn Candler, chief analyst at Aviation Perspectives, an independent research firm, and some U.S. airlines are losing anywhere from \$60 to \$64 per passenger. "We're in uncharted territory with the magnitude of all this," he says. And passengers have a front row seat to all the noise.

The crisis looked ominous just earlier this year when several U.S. airlines announced the first round of painful cutbacks. In June, Air Canada followed suit, saying it would cut 2,000 jobs. It started the process last week by announcing the elimination of 614 flight attendant positions. Delta Airlines plans to cut 4,000 route positions and American Airlines has said it will eliminate 7,000 jobs by the end of the year. At the same time the airlines are maintaining the number of flights they offer. In the costless quest to shed weight, and costs, airlines are even reducing the amount

# "This is the journey of a lifetime"



**GEORGE ASQUITH**  
Chief River Journey  
Whistler, Yukon  
BDC chair since 2007

To meet with George Asquith's love affair with Yukon, which began over 30 years ago, ultimately led him to establish, in 2007, Great River Journey, a regional tourism experience that showcases the natural beauty of Yukon and the culture of its First Nations people.

Chief Dennis Taylor | Chief Ruth Mason | George Asquith

"It took time and effort to create Great River Journey, but we wanted to do it right. The trip is not just about the river. It's about the people who live along the river and the incredible scenery that surrounds it."

Our stakeholders include First Nations, a private investment group led by IMQ Principals of Calgary, the Federal and Territorial Governments

and BDC. When you did with BDC, you're doing with a different level of bank. The Whistler branch is staffed with local people who really understand the region and our business. They have accommodated us with a combined solution that reflects the seasonal nature of the Yukon tourism industry."

Canada



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To learn more about George Asquith's story  
[www.macleans.ca/bdc/](http://www.macleans.ca/bdc/)

of open fuel tankery. One Air Canada jet pilot, who asked not to be identified, said that while the amounts are still within legal limits, it does cause problems if there's a delay on the ground. "There are too many low-level pilots who aren't had to return to the gate for more fuel," he says. A spokesman for the airline said that fuel levels are always within safe limits to allow for "diversions, delays or circling above an airport waiting for authorization to land."

At today's fuel prices it can easily cost in excess of \$100,000 to fuel up a passenger jet. Air Canada's fuel bill this year will jump by \$1 billion. And airlines are going to extraordinary lengths to keep those figures in check. Several airlines have experimented with stripping off exterior paint, which can total about \$10 lb., and there's a booming business underway in spray-washing jet engines, which removes junk and enables them to run more efficiently. Other initiatives are up to make passengers' in-flight meals lighter. And according to financial pundit Paul Kedrosky, one airline found that removing just five magazines per aircraft could save \$100,000 per year. Lighter beverage carts save \$200,000, especially now that airlines are carrying fewer drinks on each flight. And since airlines aren't feeding passengers hot meals anymore, they've been able to scrap ovens and galley equipment, saving 47 gallons a year for every jumbo aircraft.

But all of these steps airlines have taken to deal with rising costs, few have enticed passengers quite like the bewildering array of fees, charges and surcharges. There have been 15 unexpected fare hikes so far this year in the U.S., of which 15 become permanent. Canada hasn't seen anywhere near that many, but as anyone who's ever scoured out-of-country airline tickets knows, Canadians were already paying fares that are American to travel roughly the same distance. In May, Air Canada, followed by Westjet and Porter Airlines, introduced fuel surcharges of between \$10 and \$40 each way, depending on the length of the flight. The airlines didn't stop there. Now there are fees to check a second piece of baggage, and on some U.S. airlines you risk fine if you will use your. When to pick a red-eye, reserve by phone, change your reservation or just get a "kick" for being Kinko.

Airline analysts at the Air Canada last introducing these fees came opposite to airline industry, but it's not an airline industry. Airlines are likely to calculate: "As consumers we're getting a pretty rough ride," says Bruce Carr, head of the Consumer Association of Canada. "If you want to put the fare up, put it up from 1 day anyone to figure out the airlines are

surgeons." Despite calls for Ottawa to force airlines to disclose the fuel ticket prices they sell, there's not likely to happen soon. In the absence of getting out to the public, Air Canada has opted for checkbooks—in an advertisement for flight from Vancouver to New foundland last week, the airline listed the price at \$194, with a big, red, "taxes" line. The fine print read, "This is a way of course, and doesn't include fuel surcharges, taxes and staff." It's another \$134 should you choose to return home. "For what it's worth, that 'taxes' adds up to a round-trip flight worth \$901.50."

Aside from costs, the current airline crisis has created a host of other headaches for passengers, while exposing problems that have been brewing for years. If you've found your self building your travels in airports a lot

of airports on departures and arrivals for flights in North America, Europe and Asia. At the request of Maclean's, the company compiled extensive data on the on-time performance of Canadian flights to hundreds of airports on three continents. Based on the data FlightStats provided, we examined how the airlines performed while flying into Canada's eight largest airports. The results aren't broken down by the individual carriers, but were startling nonetheless. Last month 21 per cent of domestic flights didn't make it to their destination on time, up from 16 per cent two years ago. Meanwhile, an average 8.2 per cent of flights were cancelled. Last month that number had jumped to 4.4 per cent. "The Canadian situation is way better than in the U.S., but there's still

to Ottawa because of a season. Passengers were kept stranded on the plane for nearly 13 hours as pilots waited to get clearance to approach the gate. With their food and water gone, and the pilots' bodies up, passengers finally ditched \$10 and asked for help. The RCMP had to intervene before they were left. "If you were on one of these planes, there's absolutely no provision in law or regulation to protect you," says Byrne. "Consumer protection in the airline industry is woefully inadequate compared to other jurisdictions." At the same time, the airline industry is holding their breath for a change. As one airline letter writer to the Globe and Mail pointed out recently, passengers already have several rights—"The right to show up, pay up, get it up, shut it up and sit up. But don't show up, or you'll be

PASSENGERS are now being hit with fees and surcharges for services that used to be free, and still the airlines are losing millions



## THIRTY PER CENT OF ALL FLIGHTS IN THE U.S. WERE DELAYED OR CANCELLED LAST MONTH

likely, there's good reason. An astonishing number of passengers are having to wait around for delayed flights. Last month, 30 per cent of all flights in the U.S. were late or cancelled, with the average delay running 62 minutes, up slightly from last year. Those planning to fly to New York or Chicago should be ready to kill some time. At LaGuardia and O'Hare, only slightly more than half of all flights last month arrived on time.

Things are better in Canada, but not overwhelmingly so. Unlike in the U.S., Canadian airlines do not require Air Canada or Westjet to disclose how many of their flights are delayed or cancelled. Neither airline would provide data on their flight performance for this story. Fortunately, there's a third-party flight data site, which collects detailed

a lot of airport congestion," says Maureen MacLaughlin, the vice president of business development for FlightStats. "When flights are delayed into Canada's hubs it reverberates across the country."

With delays in the air, there's been a push for an airline passenger bill of rights that would guarantee passengers a minimum level of compensation in the event their flight is delayed a certain amount of time. Last month, a motion picture called for a law to force airlines to provide support from MPA in Ottawa. George Byrne, a Liberal MP from Newfoundland who brought the motion, and was supported by former members of parliament being tagged on airport search for hours on end.

In April, for instance, two Columbia Airlines flights from Vancouver to Montreal were diverted

charged extra for the no-refund bag."

Bill of rights or no bill of rights, passengers are not often left in the dark when there are delays, experts say. "For good reason, airlines are trying to keep customers," says Bruce Hood, who was Canada's first travel ombudsman from 2006 to 2007. "Don't treat them like they're a nuisance to you." In fact, poor customer service is by far the biggest complaint passengers have at the moment, according to a study last month by J.D. Power, which found customer satisfaction with the airlines in North America has fallen to its lowest point. The report said Air Canada was one of only two airlines covered in the survey that improved, though that was in the survey's early phase and not in the 2006 survey and not ratings fifth out of nine airlines in the

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SPENCER HART

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to have to pay for it?" Doug, a pilot with Air Canada for more than 30 years who didn't want his real name published, says that "instead of putting on 35 cents of Coke they put 80 cents, and they frequently reuse it [the] Whetco Air Canada recently purchased the Embraer, they bought a whole lot of them. They had no intention of ever serving hot food at the airplane."

Culinary disasters are "the ultimate inconvenience today's economy class endures. For safety reasons, the minimum ratio of one attendant per 40 passengers has largely remained the same in Canada—but the quality of service isn't what it once was. Doug sympathizes with passengers who complain about poor service. "Newer airlines like WestJet," he says, employ younger staff who still find the lifestyle fun. Air Canada "humiliated the young," as staff with less seniority were laid off after the airline's financial troubles—leaving younger staff who no longer find the work glamorous and may find "it's just a job." Most of the work is service, Doug says, and in economy because the profit margins are so slim. "The last 60 people who get on in bulk now don't deserve the price," he says. And 90 percent is too small to consider. A spokesman with the airline also said that while they are looking at ways to reduce weight and costs, their solutions won't have an impact on customer service.

Doug finds the glamour of the industry has "slowly eroded," especially, he says, after his salary was cut by 25 percent the pilot's union he and pilots took between a 15 and 20 percent pay cut during the airline's bankruptcy restructuring process. "I wanted to be able to leave the door open and still flight attendants' line of anyone wants to visit," he says, smiling. Doug admits to the end of the changing lead, says with enthusiasm. He is saddened that he's not able to share that with his own children now.

It's not all bad news. "Yes, the state is closer together than they were in the '70s, but the big airlines haven't regained seats any tighter over the past couple of decades. The "pinks" or space a seat occupies for Air Canada and WestJet is economy, generally ranges from 16 to 34 inches, compared to about 18 to 26 inches in narrow-body class, while the seat width in economy is usually about 17 to 18 inches. In fact, in some ways flying today is better than the so-called glory years. Technology provides far superior entertainment, upper-



## THE ATTENDANTS WORE COUTURE, THE MEALS CAME ON CHINA WITH SILVER. OH, AND EVERYBODY SMOKED.



class passengers can recline in comfort, and there are fewer overheads. According to the Transportation Safety Board of Canada, there were 482 accidents (60 of which resulted in fatalities) in 1989 involving Canadian-registered aircraft. About two decades later in 2007, there were 254 reported accidents (of which 13 had fatalities).

It takes a lot cheaper. After emerging from

THE MODERN air-traveler has leveled standard for affordability and better safety.

bankruptcy protection in 2006, Air Canada reduced operating costs with fuel efficiency jets like the Embraer 175 (one of their smaller aircraft seating 91), compared to the Boeing 777-300ER (one of their larger aircraft seating 365). Last year, about 31 million people flew with the carrier, whose average fuel cost per passenger per flight hour has been 2007 (roughly \$230 per passenger per round trip). "In inflation-adjusted terms, flying today is half the price than it had been in the '70s," says Mike Trethewey, chief economist at InterVISTA Consulting Inc. Research conducted by InterVISTA last December, he says, indicates most consumers prefer to go to a more convenient, cheaper ticket. Trethewey

52. Even the golden age of travel is gone, and was indeed when smoking was eliminated on Canadian airlines altogether in 1995. "I remember a flight from Chicago to Toronto. It was a section that was totally filled with smokers and I threw up because the smoke was so intense," says Trethewey. "A lot of people forget how bad it was. They forget how noisy the aircraft was."

In the future, he believes the savings of a modernized fleet will get passed down to customers. Air Canada is in the final stages of an overhaul as it has purchased 17 of Boeing's new 787 aircraft featuring 10 per cent larger windows for all passengers, 20 per cent better fuel economy, more carry-on space and LED cabin-ambient lighting that can be programmed for a sleep or gradual wake-up routine. Because the 787 is made from composite material, the fatality level in the past good cabin can be up to a more comfortable 15 per cent (up from the five to 30 per cent most airlines claim as adjusted). Flying has become cheaper, faster, and more conducive to getting work done on board—but some will always look back fondly at the days when flight attendants wore couture and passengers could simply grab their luggage from the tarmac after landing. Polak's best memories were an escape from L.A. to Mexico (before it was Beijing). "There were people down below in the bar area having a rumpus on the open tarmac. That was the place too. I remember that."

Those were the days. ■

# REELING IN A DATE

## Plenty of Fish has become the dating site for the masses

BY ALEXANDRA KEMO • If there's one example of anything to go by, it's the best way to earn a few cool million is to do not much at all, and, similarly, much less than your competition. Friend, 30, runs one of the world's busiest dating sites out of his home in Vancouver, opening New Zealand, Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada, he has single-handedly managed to become a major player in the world of on-line matchmaking.

Friend started PlentyOfFish.com in March 2003. At that time, the dot-com boom had sent many such start-ups into bankruptcy, and the computer programmer was bouncing between jobs. To improve his résumé, Friend decided to launch the site mainly as a way to teach himself Microsoft's Visual programming code. He wanted to create a site doing this in a market that usually charges members between \$10 and \$60 per month. While his girlfriend provided the customer service, he programmed and managed the site.

Dating sites are usually very niche: If you are a member of a particular group, have a weird sexual fetish, or an obscure hobby or interest, there is likely a dating site for you. There's Teabaggers.com (for Teabaggers), [tuffrubb.com](http://tuffrubb.com) (for Tuffrubb), [www.1000Gay.com](http://www.1000Gay.com) (for people with everything from 1000's of gaydar to 1000's of lesbian), [www.lesbian.com](http://www.lesbian.com), and [www.lesbian.com](http://www.lesbian.com), which is strictly for lesbian. Most of the clients sit there, but some are built-in barnies I could do this who don't fit the target demographic. For example, Match.com requires a lengthy and involved one-on-one questionnaire that can take several hours to complete, says Evan Marc Katz, a dating coach and author of *It's Not About the Sex: The 100 Essential Questions to Ask Before You Say "I Do"*. The site is designed to discourage those who want to use it as a hook-up site rather than their true intentions—consequently for busy professionals. The 1,600 core of arranging 25 best dates, excluding the most core, is supposed to turn off anyone who can't afford to pick up the tab.

Plenty of Fish has taken the opposite approach. The registration process is deliberately short, and open to everyone. It aims to attract large numbers of people from a

broad cross-section of society. The downside, of course, is that the site inevitably draws the type of person who pretends not to spend any money in their search for companionship. In Canada, the average age is 36. In the U.S., it's 39, but in both countries persons in their twenties as well as seniors are also well-represented. "It's brilliant because it is really easy to use," explains *Money* *Life*, who writes:

Friend says he makes millions working 10 hours per week.



## PLENTY OF FISH IS FREE AND OPEN TO ANYONE, AND PULLS IN \$10 MILLION IN YEARLY REVENUE

About one in 100 "Genuine Dating." "People really like it, especially because it's free." While many other dating websites offer a range of video and messaging features, Plenty of Fish offers the bare basics. Rather than requiring credit-card info and offering referrals, users on Plenty of Fish search for their own dates. Instead of video clips,

profiles are accompanied by simple headshots. If you run into problems, there's no customer service number to call. You can send an email, although the site warns that there are only a couple of people reading what you write, so responses often take days.

There is no banner advertising because Plenty of Fish relies on word of mouth for traffic and Google ads for revenue.

"They let people do their own thing," Katz explains. "There is no real quality control or filter on who is joining the site. If you want to find what you are looking for, you probably have to sift through a lot of people. It's a big, messy, under-manned site that's very laissez-faire."

It may be laissez-faire but it works. Friend's site posts thousands of photos, testimonials and thank you letters from couples who have met through the site. And in sheer volume and traffic, it remains No. 1. With 18 million hits per month in Canada, and 58 million worldwide, a nation's most popular dating site. Roughly 1 million people visit the site every month in Canada. Lovell is a student second with 752,000 people for the same duration, according to ComScore. Revenue total about \$10 million per year, says Friend, cleaned up and operating costs of about \$1 million, covering advertising, site maintenance and the cost of employing two customer service staffers. The rest of the profits go to Friend, who works about

10 hours per week, and is planning to expand into Brazil and Germany next. In the dating site world, growth can feel off itself, explains Katz. "If you throw two billion people in a barrel, you don't have to do much for some of them to meet and let it off. PlentyOfFish.com does well mainly because of the law of averages." ■



FIREARMS TEACHERS MUSTN'T SHOOT THEMSELVES. Firearms training is one of those professions that really require you to get a good education. So when Dave Klemm, a 40-year-old chef, accidentally shot himself in the ankle while handling a new semi-automatic course, he opted to resign as an instructor. The 20-year veteran of the Nevada police force stepped down after the incident, an acknowledgment he'd breached rules about firing a gun inside a classroom.

# How to shrink, but not to disappear



STEVE MAICH

The natural challenge of just about every business is to keep growing. However, much you'd like to post that, but lately, now you're trying to sell 30 per cent more. Whatever your profits were, more than 15 per cent. That's big business in a nutshell. But right now, one of the biggest and most iconic corporations in North America is struggling with precisely the opposite challenge.

General Motors, the company that dominated North America's auto business for generations, must find a way to shrink. If they can do it, one day, they might be able to grow again. But shrinking is difficult and dangerous. If you're not careful, you can shrink yourself into bankruptcy.

GM has already slashed production, a painful process that includes plans to shut down an Ontario, Ont., production line that was thought to be on solid ground just a few months ago. And recent weeks make it clear that the agency isn't nearly over. The company has lost about US\$14 billion in cash, but it is currently burning through about a billion dollars a month. Last week, GM's stock dropped below US\$10, its lowest price in more than 30 years; its market value is now less than US\$46 billion—minus value for a company with 220,000 employees and sales of more than US\$100 billion. But the stock market is all about trends, and GM's trend is ugly.

In June, GM sold 15 per cent lower cars than in the same month a year ago. The cars pay a share of the all-important American market in now around 25 per cent, meaning rock and roll with Toyota, and it's sliding across almost every one of GM's eight brands. Since 2000, GM's market share has slipped from 15 per cent to 11 per cent. Revenue is down from 3.5 per cent to 2.1. Back went from 3.1 per cent to one. The company lost US\$4.6 billion last year and doesn't expect to turn a profit again until 2010, and even then that might be overly optimistic. GM cannot afford to pay its enormous costs. And as it's time to talk about shrinkage, let's look at

This week, GM announced another round of major cuts, and adding a 30 per cent reduction in "white collar" workforce costs. It's also suspending its quarterly dividend, reducing marketing budgets and freezing spending on engineering projects. The most radical surgery involves getting rid of some of GM's eight brands. Chief executive Rick Wagoner started the speculation last month when he acknowledged that the company is trying to figure out what to do with Hummer, now that the market for gas-guzzling, road-hogging tanks has gone into a nosedive. There are plenty who think more brands need to go, with Buick and Cadillac being the



GM is stuck with too many brands and too many dealerships

prime candidates for the chop.

Once upon a time, when GM had close to half of the car market to itself, having lots of brands was seen as a way to diversify the product line. Don't like Chevy? What about this Pontiac? Now, all these brands just look like an embarrassment, especially given that, everywhere, except Cadillac, is suffering. Toyota has just three brands (Toyota, Lexus and Scion) and the whole world seems GM to be more like Toyota these days. But that's never been the case.

In a perfect world, GM would sell the weakest brands to some willing buyer. But while GM sells vehicles under different names, the cars and trucks themselves are often exactly the same once you strip away the nameplates and decorations. They are engineered on common platforms and often built on the same production lines. For example, beneath the surface, the Saturn IUE is the same as a Pontiac Bonneville, which is the same as a Chevy Equinox. The Saturn

is a Pontiac G5 in a Chevrolet Coat. Even if you could find a willing buyer (hard) ready to pay a decent price (really hard), separating the brands from the rest of the GM family would be like trying to untie the Gordian knot with scissors.

In theory, a shutdown would be simpler. But then, there are always simpler things. A few years ago, GM shut down the Oldsmobile brand, and the company still bears the scars. They figured it would cost about US\$1 billion to shut down production lines and pay off angry dealers who would no longer be getting their shipments of Novus and Bravadas. Once all the smoke cleared and the lawsuits were settled, GM wound up paying out closer to US\$2 billion. The company went to war with its dealers to get rid of Olds, and then the plaintiffs won the case, so they think it was bad mistake.

Those dealers, however, remain a key obstacle to GM's restructuring. GM has way too many dealerships, but getting them to go away isn't as easy as you'd like. In 2003, roughly 1,000 have closed in the U.S. (mostly through retrofits and consolidation), but there are still about 7,000 left. That compares to about 3,500 Toyota dealers selling about the same number of cars. The disparity is enormous. 733 GM stores, compared to 266 for Toyota. Back when GM ruled the business, there was enough room for all to thrive. GM had the best salesmen, the top mechanics, and the recent facilities. Now, with profits dwindling, some GM dealerships are looking a little shabby and the staff isn't quite what they used to be. Customer service suffers, the brand gets tarnished and all the problems compound to compound. The dealers know the economics don't work—they were wrong, more profitable dealerships too—they just don't want to be the ones forced out of business. And when GM starts talking about cutting brands and merging dealerships, owners get the lawyers on speed-dial.

All this is particularly galling for GM's brain trust because, although they never get credit for it, the company is actually producing some pretty fine cars these days—its iconic, award-winning cars are more so. But if GM ever wants to capitalize on its improving product, it has to figure out how to get small of a hurry. If only it were as simple as it sounds. ■

Steve Maich is a columnist for [maichnews.com](http://maichnews.com).

# Why the real 'Corner Gas' is in trouble

BY ALEXANDAR ZIVOJINOVIC • There are a lot more laughs on the hit show *Corner Gas* than on a stand-up comedy routine these days. So you'd think that with the high price of fuel, gas stations would be selling again, but the truth is the independent ones are struggling to survive. "Canada is losing gas stations faster than you can say 'gas,'" says Joe Siroga, president and CEO of the Canadian Independent Petroleum Marketers Association.

Why aren't they making money? One reason is that profit margins haven't gone up even though gas prices have skyrocketed. According to Siroga, independents make only four to six cents per litre in profit, less than the company-owned gas stations such as Shell or Petro-Canada. But even gas prices have sagged, consumers have been buying less gas, so they're making less profit overall. Higher gas prices mean higher truck transportation fees per litre, so independent ones are charged a fixed percentage of what when consumers pay with plastic. The first one amount to as much as two cents per litre in rural areas.

Gas station convenience stores—where independents make most of their money—also do less business. After paying 150 for a tank of gas, customers are less likely to pick up a giant chocolate bar or a Coke. Money from cigarette advertising is gone, now that it's banned and cigarettes are under fire. Cigarette sales have also dropped, mainly in rural areas where smokers buy more convenience stores. It's all too much for independent gas stations, says Dave Byrnes, president of the Canadian Convenience Stores Association. In five years, he expects as much as 30 per cent of independents will have shut down or been bought out by bigger rivals.

Indies could just raise their oil to the pump to turn a profit, but the competition is tough. Pickle dealers are always on the prowl for cheaper stations, and gas stations suffer if their prices are too high. That may be the biggest irony of today's record oil profits: by the time they trickle down to the value gas pumps, there's almost nothing left. ■

# Spend now, and you'll be happier later

BY ZACHARY BRIDGEMAN • In *Aspen's* Table *The Grapeseller* and *The Art*, the famous grapeseller is taught an important lesson by the responsible son: you'll be happier later if you go for the pleasure of today to prepare for the future. Well, it turns out that was wrong. The new studies show that delaying your indulgence today can actually lead to more regret tomorrow than going ahead and indulging.

The first study, conducted by Alan Kruttschnitt, an assistant professor at Harvard Business School, and Ron Kivetz, a professor at Columbia Business School, looks at the regret felt by college students after a winter break. It found that students who partied felt more regret right after the break about the effect on their finances and studies. But that regret faded quickly. Forty years later, it's the ones who didn't party who have the most regret about all the fun they missed out on.

The second study, by the same authors, asked consumers to consider both short and long term regret about their purchases before a shopping trip. It found that those who focused on the regret they might feel tomorrow spent less than those who focused on how they would feel about their purchases years from now.

"People regret not yielding to temptation," says Kruttschnitt. "We're talking about regret, but people aren't regretting regret, well, central." That's an important finding for



STUDIES SAY if you don't party at spring break, you'll regret it later

marketers. Kruttschnitt says, because advertising that prompts consumers to consider long-term regret rather than short-term regret can lead to higher levels of spending.

Zaki Moshavi, assistant professor and founder of Talmud at agency Zulu Alpha Kilo, says it's an important finding—but he thinks it's one that smart marketers have known for years. The truth is, he says, "I think marketers and agencies have already been capitalizing on this for a long time." ■

# Can BCE be renewed in 100 days?

BY JASON BERRY • When Michael Sibus became chief executive officer of BCE in 2002, analysts predicted he would move swiftly to reshape its corporate strategy and put the telecom giant back on track. Instead, Sibus spent 2.71 days making a happy place that ultimately involved selling the company off. Now all eyes are on BCE's



COPE SAYS HE will focus on service and cutting costs

new boss, George Cope, who has committed to transferring the company into a more nimble enterprise in a mere 100 days.

Cope, well-regarded veteran of CIBC and Bell Canada, officially became CEO of BCE last Friday. He says his plan will focus on improving customer service, slashing costs, and accelerating fibre optic network upgrades to make up for lost time. Sibus' costs may mean saving as many as 5,000 of BCE's 15,000 employees, according to reports, while Cope's senior executive team has already been whittled down to 12 from 18. He plans to shed assets that don't fit with the company's wireless business (though he remains committed to Bell's Rogers' satellite-TV services). And the company plans to invest billions of dollars a year on broadband for its wireless and traditional phone line divisions. Above all, Cope says he plans to strengthen BCE's focus on the customer.

However, Tim Grandall, a research analyst with MacDough, MacDough & MacDough in Montreal, says that doesn't mean the company will actively reform itself. He says that's not it. "There's a lot of things to be done and 100 days isn't much time," he says. "Any major restructuring, like buying or selling a major division, isn't likely to happen until the takeover is complete in December."

The pressure is on. In recent years, BCE has lost more than one million local phone customers, while its wireless division gave up market share to rivals Rogers Wireless and Telus Mobility. You can bet the private equity investors who borrowed \$1.2 billion to do it don't have ended. Oct. 15—the day Cope's plan will be complete—on their calendars with a big, fat asterisk. ■







Michael Ignatieff  
Ottawa, ON



David West  
Annapolis, Maryland, USA



Peter Falarca  
Ottawa, ON



Ann Johnson  
Ottawa, ON



James Leves  
Ottawa, ON



Brenda Olson  
Ottawa, ON



Karen Cookson  
Ottawa, ON



Melissa Thompson  
Ottawa, ON



Lauren Williams  
Ottawa, ON



John Chen  
Ottawa, ON



Alison Fries  
Ottawa, ON



Nicole Smith  
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Ann Cross  
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Mark Tse  
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Ann Johnson  
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Jennifer Ritchie  
Ottawa, ON



Nicole Smith  
Ottawa, ON



Lindsay Smith  
Ottawa, ON



Mark Tse  
Ottawa, ON



Miki Brown  
Ottawa, ON

## ON THE ROAD TO GOLD, A LITTLE GREEN GOES A LONG WAY.



At General Motors, we're not content to simply cheer on our athletes. We're committing \$5.2 million to Canada's best. Our GM Making Dreams Possible program awards 10 grants annually to high performance coaches and their Olympic hopeful athletes - the 2008 recipients are pictured above. And we're partnered with the Coaching Association of Canada to provide 100 grants annually to support coaching development in our local communities. GM is proud to help Canada's athletes realize their dreams. To apply or for more information visit [theassociation.ca](http://theassociation.ca) or [coach.ca](http://coach.ca) to learn more.



The Drive to Be



## Canada's Olympic hopefuls: No. 9 of a series



CANADIAN CHAMPION, RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS, AGE 31

## Alexandra Orlando ONE-WOMAN TEAM

STORY BY JONATHAN GLATKOWSKI  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTOPHER WARR

Alexandra Orlando has heard all the jokes. The wide remarks about ribbon twirling and dancing her way to a medal. The unsolicited opinions - mostly proffered by people who have never seen a competition in their lives - that rhythmic gymnastics "isn't a real sport." She can't pretend that they don't hurt, but after 16 years rolling in the athletic equivalent of the winner's protection program, she's developed a thick skin. What Orlando will never get used to, however, is the Canadian public's failure to comprehend what it takes to be among the best in the world, even in a sport they don't appreciate. "People just don't know how difficult it is, how hard I've had to work just to come eighth,"









## THE BACK PAGES

### film

A slinky PG-rated rump  
bore

### bazaar

Trust and  
Theology

### arts

A reluctant  
hero

### music

Guitar sales  
are on over

### help

Dealing with  
dogmappers

### feschuk

Ryckes-sized  
doping



# Love at first bite

**A series about a romance with a tall, dark, handsome and deadly stranger is a hit with sexually curious adolescents** BY BRIAN BETHUNE

### books

The genesis of Stephenie Meyer's bestselling series of teen vampire novels, now metamorphosing into a pop culture phenomenon that approaches—however distantly—J.R.R. Tolkien territory, lies in a dream. A teenage couple are alone in a forest glade, she an average girl, he a creature of unearthly beauty, literally sparkling in the sunlight. Each the other's world away (to borrow a phrase from Cormac McCarthy), they are secretly discussing two colliding fates: they have fallen passionately in love and he, a vampire, can barely restrain himself from eating her, an ordinary mortal, right there and then.

Meyer's dream has become an iconic teenage romance her fans in the myth of William Shakespeare, readily scribbling away in an Edinburgh café, busy on laptops at evening hours. What the Scottish author eventually wrote is known the world over: *Harry Potter*, all 750 million copies sold and the 100 far/black home: *Twilight*, all 5 million copies sold, a fourth volume (*Breaking Dawn*) set for release on Aug. 3, and an eagerly anticipated film version of *Twilight* due in the fall—is already getting the Rowling treatment from publishers, bookstores and fans.

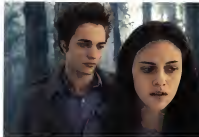
When Meyer gives a book reading, hordes of 1,000 or more teen girls, many dressed as vampires, are the standard. Publishers Little, Brown and Co. (distributed by H.B. Fenn in Canada) can't be providing reviewers with advance copies of *Breaking Dawn*. As with a *Potter* novel, all 5 million North American copies will go on sale at once, at midnight on the release date. And many bookshops, including the larger Indigo stores, will stay open and hold *Twilight*-themed parties for the occasion (that was even Rowling, a marketing master, but in the ingenious idea of retaining past volumes with a poster, stickers,

and the first chapter of the long-for-just volume, as Meyer has done with *Twilight* and *Breaking Dawn*). High as *Harry Potter* on the bar, Meyer's edition is the classic thing to the boy wizard's accession to appear yet.

The previous, beautiful-creature romance of Bella and Edward—with its hint of a love triangle, courtesy of Bella's good friend Jacob Black, a Native American who's also a werewolf—is an unlikely heir to *Harry*'s throne

likely the protag isn't to be a vampire herself. In *Twilight* she's the All-True Coughlin of *Twilight* (the vampire) by Kimberly Dwyer (August release), poor Bella is the blood-drinking equivalent of the non-magical equals in *Harry Potter*. As the eerily beautiful daughter of a vampire, she has to attend vampire residential school, as well as juggle the everyday concerns of boys, friends and parents. In more-alternate-universe tales, the High School Plus by Lisa Campbell (2006), that heroine can be a Buffy-level vampire slayer.

Most often, though, like Bella, she's an innocent student, inevitably seduced into something that will eventually transform her (generally) unhappy and isolated existence. Or kill her. Her beloved, of course, is virtually always a vampire, whom he isn't, she is the romance has become the great divide, or when the thrill of it is the VAMPS—this would be *Vampire American Perfection*—a new series by Nancy Collins (July), the tale themselves are the design-deepened teen daughters of New York City's vampire lords, Moon Girls types with blood fetters. They practically rule Manhattan, topping Peter of "chilled A-



AN EAGERLY awaited film version of Stephenie Meyer's first novel, *Twilight*, is out this fall

Vampire stories are almost too popular for any one of them to stick out from the herd. Enter "vampire" into Amazon.com's search function and it's astonishing 44,000 titles will appear. Among the teen literature titles, one genre stands out: romance with a tall, dark, handsome and deadly stranger, other who known as "chick lit with fangs."

Teen vampire fiction is more romance, horror, and comedy (not to mention shopping) in ways that function as wildly as the configurations of teenage and love stories. The movie the story is played for laughs, the romance

ring" as exclusive clubs, and occasionally dominating in the parks, driving the city's homeless population. Until, that is, pose-girl heroine Cady Moxworth—half human, half vampire—shows up at their exclusive vampire high school. A vampire prince is drawn to Cady, as is a descendant of Abraham Van Helsing. Brian Koppelman's original *Dracula* heroine, in a half blood (literally), she has romantic entanglements across the species divide in both directions.

Traditional vampires can be as evil as centuries-old folk tradition made them. New teen girls

OPPOSITE: ADAM WARD

OPPOSITE: ADAM WARD

world's oldest form of vampire-human relationships as offered in Rachel Caine's *Mar garetta series*, which was its fourth volume (appearing in June).

Then, the undead brutally run a small Texas town, and any reader who doesn't sweat a little more is liable to become a midnight snack. Or vampires can be good. In the "Bright nears," the *California* family, who jokingly call themselves "vegetarians," have won'ted all human flesh for ethical reasons and submit on its way. (Edwards has a taste for mountain lions.) In general, though, the undead are just like the living: a mixed lot morally. After all, they have to be fed vampire blood (if the hero is to have some room to guard his girl against

Vampire powers are just as variable. In an era of declining religious faith, crucifixes and holy water are nowhere near as efficacious against them as they once were. Contemporary authors tend to pick and choose (the undead's attributes, sometimes offering explanations in *YAMVS*, the teenage pressies' reference book about town at all hours, chomping 'by day and killing 'by night, because they don't close their immaturity to sunlight, or their usage in errors, until they are fully mature, at age 21). Then there is the fact that Meyer's vampires have no fangs, which would mar their handsome features. (It provides no explanation for that, one—these authors can't escape any description of how they manage to eat. (Given what Bella means to our point—a slush, followed by her little moaning noises—she may make up for their lack of fangs with extra-strong molars.) Meyer's most innovative touch, even if it is virtually forced on her by that dream of Edward playing in the sunlight, was to have her vampires avoid the daytime not because it destroys them, but because it reveals them to the heart-searingly beautiful creature they are.

But two centuries of literary tradition make a convincing claim for these books. Vampires solidly retain figures of nocturnal terror and awe, bringing the terrors of their genre's birth almost two centuries ago on what was then a verdant planet. In 1816, the famous "Year Without a Summer," ash from an Indonesian volcano clogged the atmosphere, blocking the sun's rays and helping about the last great natural subterranean crisis in Western history. In North America, ash choked rivers in July as far south as Pennsylvania. And in France-Switzerland, while thousands were dying of typhoid and cholera, the first crack of jaws "hissed around the fire in a chit town on Lake Geneva. Blood and light on

linens, the poet urged his companions to compose ghost stories in the Gothic mode. Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* may be the most famous tale to have emerged, but it was The Vampire, by Byron's physician John Polidori, that proved the most influential.

Polidori's short story (in which the undead protagonist was closely modeled on the "real, but dangerous to know" Byron) was an awkward hit, spawning a vampire craze that worked itself into unlikely cultural and literary nooks. In *Wuthering Heights*—the most template for *Twilight*, with *Romeo and Juliet*

liar runs from this in terms of sexual repression) (Victoria Brown) and *Frankenstein* (1992), early a review of Francis Ford Coppola's *Draacula* failed to screen the theme of the dangers of sex (especially with strangers) in the age of AIDS. Nor is it a surprise that the genre courts a particular pull on the most socially hesitant and curious among us adolescents.

Paradoxically, the sex saturation itself first made the teen books so much, and then, of course, the vampire craze. A vampire story is the very definition of sublimation. On its own, it's a sexually attractive theme of the powerful (and

and that "the same force that created the baby and the killer whale" also made vampires and their human prey. Merely and behaviorally, he's a lion among Christians. No! Not needling people! He spends his nights swooning over Bella like a guard dog angel, keeping her safe. Whatever his desires, Edward will not, uh, bite Bella until after their (possible) wedding.

## Whatever his desires, Edward will not, uh, bite Bella until after their (possible) wedding



BELLA LUGOOSI, Helen Chandler in *Draacula* (1922). (Inset) The Vampire author John Polidori

deseminate) vampire rule figure who lives the less that perfect girl just as she is and practices to protect her from all evil, and while seducing her more than a hint of danger—read text as well as death—is more than enough to pull in teen girls. It's even possible to view a vampire as a really Christian saint, which is what Meyer believes, and in the same way that Rowling, a Church of Scotland member, said that Harry Potter's world—where no one goes to church—with Christmas trees of wonder and magic.

Meyer is a practicing Mormon, though Mormon doctrine never runs above the surface of her books, coming closest in a single passage, when Edward and Bella briefly discuss the origins of vampires, in the same way people debate the origin of humanity (creation versus evolution). Edward, the supposedly secularist immortal, probably speaks for Meyer when he says he sees evidence of intelligent design all around him,

WHEN MEYER ARRIVED from that feminist drama, on the morning of June 2, 2001, she was a 29-year-old English girl and would be better, living in Phoenix with her husband and three young sons. So modestly she recall that she quipped the household chaos of getting her boys ready for their first swim lessons and typed a transcript. From then on Meyer didn't miss a day writing down the ongoing conversation of Bella and Edward, whose voices kept echoing in her head. She went on from the meadow scene—which became chapter 21 of *Twilight*—and then turned to the harder task of writing up to this point, driving the last 100 pages in her 500-page contractual first way of a book in August, just three months later.

Meyer is a devoted wife and mother, and she says she wrote another 100 pages with Edward, as she cheerfully can focus on her website, and she is in Bella. Meyer made to explain odd circumstances in Bella's life with reference to her own experience. That's not vampire circumstances; the website also contains a question from one fan—"Is *Twilight* autobiographical?"—and Meyer's flat answer: "No. *Twilight* is a work of fiction." (The author actually has some touch in human, daughter, or otherwise, at least when the characters in the novel and take a breath. When Bella and Edward are not being intense—so adamantly rare occurrence—they can joke. After they arrive at their small new high school, pen, and illustrations in the *Carrie* like decorations, she whispers to Edward, "Do you want me to tell the doctors you can enhance the appearance tomorrow?"

Fans couldn't care less that Meyer doesn't provide much of an origin for Edward and his kind: where he comes from is far less important than the fact he simply is. And that Bella, too, accepts with remarkable ease

Very early on the sides up what the knows about Edward—beyond beyond natural lies, outrageously fast and strong, cold to the touch—and confides, without trace of cognitive dissonance: must be a vampire. So do modern fans. But the adventure aspects of *Twilight*, where Bella barely escapes death at the hands of her kindly disposed supernatural creatures, often have an add-on, rather than acting integral to the story. (Throughout the series, every bloodsucker who encounters Bella seems to consume her. For those who have the sense to detect it, Bella's blood carries an aroma like the bouquet of a fine wine. It "smells" as vampire-speak, and Bella may be the first literary heroine to achieve that status not by her

own better than before, then, than the author misreading... and it all happens at such a pace that a reader barely has time to start a "wait a minute, if one of you would only explain" thought.

Readers don't have to be adolescent girls who have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fantasy or who absorb (however much that might help) to find Bella's world as addictive as crack cocaine. In short, vampires are to Meyer's schlock as anagrams to Rowling's surface. It's what's underneath, the age-old art of proving as if trying to prove who we are and what we have to offer, that book readers and readers there want to live in the authors' imaginary world.

Twilight still appears in Meyer's bestselling

THEY LOVE EDWARD: MEYER fans at a U.S. bookstore. (Inset) author Stephanie Meyer



## Stephanie Meyer's creation is the closest thing to the boy wizard's successor to appear yet

character or beauty, but because she literally smelted diamonds.)

None of that matters to her readers, or should it, for that matter. What they obsess over is precisely what separates this vampire story from any other: the beyond erotic, Catherine and Heathcliff romance between Bella and Edward. When her story is focused on at a lower, Meyer's prose, some critics put it, "reads the page like a novelized diary." Bella swears, and Edward pines and sighs but never swears back, Edward wants to eat her, he wants to hug her, they argue, they conspire together to learn their fight was all worthy and so in their profound love and logic for one another, Edward leaves Bella for her own safety, both become aware of the magical in their grief, they come back together, it's

there, important to her series as Rowling's concept of self-sacrificing love as the ultimate power in the universe is in the *Harry Potter*. In Meyer's series it can be summed up in one word, symbolized by the apple of Gorgone's head on *Twilight*'s cover choice. Vampire or human (or werewolf), even when matters seem out of their control, Meyer stresses that her characters' lives are in their own hands. Bella has to choose humanity or immortality. Edward must choose between love and yielding to his deeper desires. These volumes later, the highest moments arrived. With the end of the book in sight, and her legging combination of adventure, comedy and the highest of high romance is poised to reveal, the reach of Stephanie Meyer's world may yet rival J.K. Rowling's. ■

MEYER'S FANS: JULY 28, 2005



(JASON BENNETTO with 'Vince' the calf at Hoofstock) people tell cheesemaker Julia Grace they admire her for traveling she'll be paid

**WE'RE STALKING** Who was that man serious allergic near Roth, but Roth says allergic to nuts "It says 'Turns out a C identified as the partying wh

**DAVID LEE ROTH**  
 Ontario Provincial Police helped out of a  
 need to help? They said it was close to  
 his wasn't in Ontario at the time, nor is  
 the only thing I'm allergic to a criticism," he  
 Cambridge drummer, David Huntz, has been  
 typically men. After receiving, he went out  
 two nurses from Brampton, Ont.

Bergin claims he's not a customer because with \$40 worth of unpaid pizza, telling them "Next time you come in, pay for it," Bergin's words that "after having an experience like this, the next 10 parties you go to, you'll talk about this place that actually treated me. The balance do no advertising," Bergin says. "We have zero marketing budget."

At Moonstrack Organic Cheese on Salt Spring Island, B.C., customers enter to find a cash bar with bells and coins, a refrigerator full of cheese, a lodge to write down what they take and a sign listing prices: \$11 per cheese or \$30 for three. Not everyone is filled with the set up. Recently, a couple from California visited Moonstrack hoping

Choromashuk jokes Grosse at Mountbatten says she doesn't pretend there aren't some theft. She used to stuff the sheep but stopped. "All the extra income went to stuffing. The numbers weren't there. But I've made it a thing in my mind that it's much less hassle for us to do it this way, even with a little bit of theft, than it is to stuff it." Then, she says "I'm amazed at the number of people who suppose and tell me they admire me for doing it. They think it's wonderful to see, and that there's still hope in Canada." ■



1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 283: 2689-2694.

Who was that man Gettine Provençal? Police helped out of a serious allergic reaction to nuts? They said it was singer rocker Roth, but Roth says he wasn't in Ontario at the time, nor is he allergic to nuts. "The only thing I'm allergic to is criticism," he says. Turns out a Cambridge drummer, David Huntz, has been identified as the mystery man. After seeing him, he went out partying with two nurses from Exeter, Ont.

A 1962 recording that the crooner made in a washroom of his local YMCA in Wales has sold for US\$5,000 at a London auction. The tape is the earliest known recording of Jones, who was then performing as *Timothy Scott* and the *Sensations*. According to a YMCA spokesman, Jones had chosen the men's room because it had the best acoustics in the building. "These recordings mark the birth of the 'Tom Jones phenomenon,'" said Liz Williams.







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SCOTT  
FESKENO

Can you feel the excitement  
in the falling air? Not? Well,  
try again—it's probably just  
cooled in sulphur dioxide.  
The poster, after four long  
years of waiting, we are now  
only a couple of weeks away  
from watching people we've  
never heard of compete in sports we don't  
care about. Go ahead, internet!

In the days ahead, medals will be won,  
glory will be achieved, cups will be peddled,  
glory will be tainted and medals will be  
revoked. What follows is a schedule of key  
events around the for during the Summer Olympic  
Games.

**Aug. 7** On the eve of the Games, the Inter-  
national Olympic Committee is expected to  
announce that its century-old motto—"Faster,  
Higher, Stronger"—will be replaced for the  
duration of China 2008 with "Soaring,  
Strongly, Successfully." Meanwhile, an ancient  
world event will close the Games at which  
former IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch  
finally gives up the diamond and shows up as  
fatigued and ripe, a middle-aged man in his prime.

**Aug. 8** The opening ceremonies—the sort of  
borderline devil rule that can only come  
from watching world class athletes walk into  
a stadium and politely take their seats in an  
orderly fashion. The same cast to mark the old  
rituals of the torch, provided by television  
broadcasters armed with United Nations  
information about each and every country.

**Box MacLean:** Here's the news from *Star  
Line*: *Star* flag-bearer has a male of the size  
of a Maclean on his left buttock.

**Peter Maclean:** *How's the news in Guangdong  
you doubt the efficacy of socialism?*

By the way, the theme of the opening cere-  
monies is reported to involve "civilization  
and harmony" which means those stuffed  
shirts down at the IOC have once again  
rejected my proposal of "Hawaii love."

**Aug. 9** The world wakes to the historical  
reality that for as long as the deeply sym-

bolic Olympic flame burns ever-burning, all  
people of the planet shall be joined together  
in a spirit of peace, friendship and boundless  
goodwill.\*

**Aug. 11** Chinese officials do their best to  
look shocked and pained when an IOC mem-  
ber lifts the rug in his hotel room and finds  
four million political dissidents.

**Aug. 12** Following this iconic gold, silver  
and bronze to be made in China proves a  
fated decision when vicious athletes begin  
to notice the medals' striking resemblance  
to recalled cans of dog food.

**Aug. 13** Swimmers in their new body-  
hugging, ultra snug Speedo set an Asian  
rowing array of records—and establish a  
new world record for *Things We Pray We*

but I am reliably informed that a substantial  
membership among women swimmers has  
been exposed in bold text.

**Aug. 16** Participants in the women's gym-  
nastics floor exercise perform their first pro-  
gram. In last year's the sport's long-standing  
tradition, the presentation of medals to the  
triumphant participants will take place  
just prior to the competition.

**Aug. 18** Canada's meager medal haul will  
ignite national anger about our athletic  
inferiority, leading Stephen Harper to lobby  
for sports we ought do better at—like the  
Extremely Useless Flare and the 100-m  
Unorthodox Downhill Stumble. Mean-  
while, Stéphane Dion declares that the key  
to Olympic glory lies in a proper government



## Aug 14: Wildcat strike by Brotherhood of (overworked) Players of Tinkly Piano Music

**Never Have to See Otis's Weirdest**  
**Aug. 14** Estimated day of a wildcat strike  
by the Brotherhood of Players of Tinkly Piano  
Music. The union will claim that its members  
have been overworked trying to meet the  
demand for jazz-wireless music videos to accom-  
pany the scores of incoherent profiles of these  
athletes who are competing despite facing  
cancer, coping with diabetes and being born  
without a single internal organ. As a result  
of the labour dispute, all profiles on U.S. tele-  
vision will henceforth feature *Today* show  
weatherman AJ Baker humming the theme  
to *Children of Fire*.

**Aug. 15** No margin for error—the *American*  
sweep to gold in Synchronized Doping.

**Aug. 16** Mid-Games meeting of the IOC  
begins with the traditional recitation of the  
IOC's official oath of responsibility: "The  
best athletes—wayway over three—will  
be a financial buck we're talking about, in  
which case, please."

**Aug. 18** The actor Matthew McConaughey  
has no apparent connection to the Games,

concocted Canadians to use only energy em-  
bed by signing triple jumpers. He is later  
said by the owners of Green Hop, Skip and  
Jump Inc.

**Aug. 22** Viewers sense that Olympic pro-  
file fatigue may be setting in as the CBC re-  
mote outdoor host 112nd voice-over with an  
absent. "Mish Mish Mish. As if this spot is  
going to win anything."

**Aug. 24** Under the watchful eye of IOC  
president Jacques Rogge, a large cast is seated  
during the closing ceremonies and prepared  
for departure to London. Upon stampeded  
the words: "Warning: Contents Synchroni-  
zed Summer! Do Not Open Till 2013!"

**Aug. 25** Games over. Athletes free to  
enlist.

*\*Does not apply to residents of the Middle East,  
Africa, Afghanistan, pretty much all of Africa,  
every part of China not in range of International  
TV Coverage and Pamela Anderson's love life*

ON THE WEB: To read Fescenko on the Games,  
visit his blog: [www.macleans.ca/Fescenko](http://www.macleans.ca/Fescenko)

1924-2000

He flew 23 bombing missions over Germany and once delayed a mission to find his lucky pinky ring

**P**aul Glynn was born in Windsor, Ont., when it was known as Ford City, on April 1, 1924, the same day that King George V created the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was the second son of Mary, a Ukrainian immigrant, and William, a boat maker from Russia. As a youngster, Paul knew he wanted to fly airplanes. At age 11, during an attempt to get airborne, he climbed a telephone pole, clutching his mother's umbrella and jumped off, agitating both ankles. His desire for adventure grew with him. At 13, Paul and his older brother, Roy, jumped a train.

and rode it all the way to Welland, Ont. Paul also enjoyed baseball—throwing a mean curveball as a left-handed pitcher—and he was a bright student with an encyclopedic memory for history. But at age 16, after graduating from W.D. Lowe Secondary School, he joined the RCAF. It was 1944, and he wanted to be a pilot as badly then as during Flight School in Downsview after he got out. He'd study on his own, and using a flashlight to read the manuals.

Achewo joins in the REAR, Paul got his wish and was stationed in England. He was promoted to flying officer with the 76 Squadron and attached to the RAF, making him responsible for a bomber crew of six handpicked men

As a Halifax border pilot who also flew Lancasters, he possessed technical expertise in equal measure. He never left for a mission without his lucky rabbit's foot until his future bride, Mollie Mason, gave him a plastic ring the next morning. (Once marriage was lost, Paul used his special officer by holding up an entire mission until he found it.) Paul met Mollie at the Louthborough Arms Hotel, a pub frequented by officers in England, near the Elbow on a spidery Moor estate. The weekend at the hotel, grey-eyed bearded, she thought he was handsome but arrogant. Still, he noticed her were once a picture show. He was 26, she was 18, and they fell in love, but since his missions were top secret, "He couldn't call her and tell her anything," says Jeffery. The eldest of three sons the couple later had "so he'd take off and put his wing on as she knew it was him."

The bombing port was punctuated by danger. One morning, Nadie awoke to screams and gasped while tracer bullets sprayed Allied bombers during Operation Genda. In the surprise night raid, a number of German Luftwaffe fighters followed the bombers back

to England and shot 30 down. Paul's mid-upper gunner William Thomas Mailey, 39, from Knoxville, Ill., died during the attack. Because his landing gear was destroyed, Paul came down to earth by crashing into other aircraft with his dorsal crewman behind him. The way he veered his plane down and crumpled it hard to the left to avoid being fatally hit, and the feeling of his adrenalin surging as bullets shot past his face, was a story Paul shared with anyone who asked. All in all, Paul survived 23 bombing raids over Germany. Still, he never forgot Mailey's loss. "Some 20 years never want to take me back," he says.

Paul considered flying for a commercial airline, but took a job as a United Airlines revenue coordinator in Detroit after receiving a phoning contract with the Philadelphia Phillies. "They were going to give him a signing bonus of \$200,000, but he said his wife wasn't good sports," says Jeffrey Maske and Paul took advantage of his job period, taking family vacations all over the world. They once flew to San Francisco for the day to celebrate their wedding.

ding an anniversary. But it was during a trip to Lebanon in the early 1970s that they encountered their stranger's substance. "They sat down with a guy, I don't know if he was a sheik, but he offered to make a camel to my dad the way mother," says Gary. "They thought he was joking at first, and then they started getting scared because he got up to these camels. The guy went to get the camels and they took off."

At home, Pasi walked daily to keep fit. He had a taste for pork chops, but he never gained weight, and never "spoiled" his Green Royal with more than two occasions—although the family never saw him drink too much. After losing his wife to a heart attack in 2006, Pasi continued his travelling, but he remained an active member of his Air Force Club, Wing 412, in Windsor, even as its membership dwindled. On Sunday, June 29, Pasi gathered with 70 of the members to commemorate his dining. After the last lowering ceremony, he suffered a massive stroke in the clubhouse, and died later that evening in the hospital. He was 84.



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